

SHOOT!

35p

SCAN
**SUMMER
SPECIAL
1977**

**TOP SOCCER
ACTION...
EXCITING
FEATURES
& PHOTOS...**

**SUPER
STARS**
INCLUDING



KEVIN KEEGAN

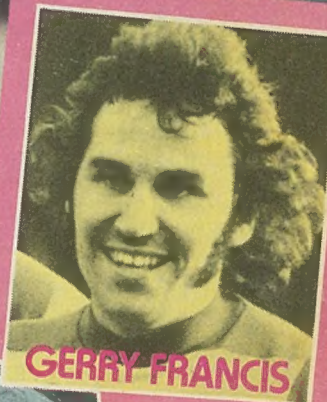


JOHN GREIG

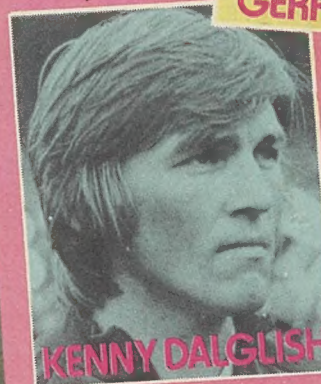
**ANDY
GRAY**
(Aston Villa)



GORDON HILL



GERRY FRANCIS



KENNY DALGLISH

ANOTHER 'EXTRA' FOR SHOOT READERS

THE 1976-77 season is over. All the Championship, Cup and relegation issues have been decided.

Now soccer fans are eagerly looking forward to the start of 1977-78, a season which promises to be even more exciting, dramatic and controversial.

Although this is the close-season there is certainly no shortage of soccer news and action to capture your interest. And there are many memorable moments to relive

from last season.

Therefore, we've again produced this special holiday edition of SHOOT, Britain's brightest and biggest selling football magazine.

We hope you enjoy reading it as much as my "team" did putting it together.

Happy holiday reading ...

David Gregory

EDITOR

NEWS DESK

COMPILED BY PETER STEWART

FOLLOWING Manchester United has cost Dale McKimm, 19-years-old, at least six jobs. The reason? Dale lives in Torquay and sees every United match at home and away.

Dale, in fact, has United following him. He has the club's crest tattooed across his back. The process took three agonising hours ... "but it was worth it", said Dale.

Identical gates

IT would need a mathematical genius to determine the odds of a club twice attracting identical gates at home League matches in the same season.

It happened in four cases in 1975-76. Port Vale had two crowds of 3,892, Colchester two of 3,534, Stockport two of 2,789 and Crewe two of 2,501.

FULL-BACK John Brindley left Notts County at the end of the 1975-76 season without scoring in 247 games for the club.

He joined Gillingham - and guess what happened in his first match? Yes, he scored!

Peter Swan was another who achieved something similar. After no goals in 270 League games for Sheffield Wednesday, he went to Bury, and scored in his very first game for them.

ROY AITKEN is a key-man in Celtic's team in more ways than one. He is also an accomplished pianist.

QUESTION: Who managed a Fourth Division club to victory on Boxing Day last year and then moved 300 miles North to steer a Third Division club to a point the following day?

ANSWER: John Newman, who left Exeter City for Grimsby Town over the Christmas period.

Exeter gave John a fine send-off with a 3-0 win over Torquay United, and Grimsby welcomed their new boss with a 1-1 draw against Sheffield Wednesday.

Mick says "thanks"

THIS is testimonial year for Sheffield Wednesday striker Mick Prendergast.

After one match last term, a disco was arranged for Owls fans at Tiffany's in Sheffield.

Here Mick thanks everybody for supporting him before trying his hand, and voice, as a disc jockey.

'SUMMER SOCCER WOULD IMPROVE ENGLISH FOOTBALL'

Says DON REVIE

THE arguments about summer football for Britain have bounced back and forth for years - but England manager Don Revie has never had any doubts - it has to come.

"I have advocated summer soccer for as long as I can remember, and my feelings are getting stronger on the subject," he said recently.

Mr. Revie pointed out that a number of countries have a two-month break during the bad weather, and he felt it was time England adopted a similar principle.

Time for a cooling drink as England boss Don Revie talks tactics during a break in summer training.

"I would like to see the season split into two periods, August to mid-December and mid-February to July," he went on.

"Although our weather tends to be unpredictable, there can be no doubt that it is better in June and July than any other time of the year, and I believe the advantages of playing then would be enormous.

"It would lead to a basic improvement in the skills of our players, because it is impossible for them at the moment on the combination of skating rinks,



England in action in America last summer.



mudheaps and uneven surfaces that we have to contend with.

"There has been a lot of talk about the all-weather Astroturf pitches, but so few clubs could afford them, that I think this idea is just not feasible.

"All this adds up to one thing. A mid-winter break is the only solution, allied to summer football. I would like to see matches played on a late Sunday afternoon, as this is the only day when offices, shops and factories are closed. Bigger crowds would be attracted than on Saturdays."



NO one could accuse former Welsh international Ron Davies of letting the grass grow under his feet.

In the past few years he's played for Manchester United in the First Division, Millwall in the Third, been to South Africa and now Dorchester in the Southern League.

WATCH WHEELDON

TOMMY Wheeldon, a 19-year-old midfielder who moved into the Everton camp the same time as Duncan McKenzie, is quietly biding his time before his hoped-for entrance into the big scene.

Wheeldon, who cost £1,000, appeared small beer alongside the McKenzie £200,000.

But young Wheeldon, signed from Cheshire League club St. Helens Town, has already won some little honour on Merseyside. He captained the Merseyside Under-19 side and also appeared for England Under-18's.

A studious type — he has eight "O" levels and two "A" — he can surprisingly recall: "I was on the dole before signing for Everton."

WEST Brom's brilliant young winger Laurie Cunningham had no problem keeping fit when his previous club Orient were constantly being hit by postponements due to the bad weather during the winter months. He went Afro-dancing with his girlfriend to keep in trim.

Says Laurie: "I used to try things like yoga and ballet to keep fit outside training, but now I go Afro-dancing often. It especially helps my balance."

IRISH club Newry have had no fewer than five international 'keepers on their books in the past four decades.

Apart from grooming Ireland's Tommy Breen (ex-Man. United), Jim Twoomey (ex-Leeds) and Pat Jennings (Spurs) for stardom, the Co. Down club have also had Welsh caps Arthur Hughes (ex-Blackburn) and Tony Millington (ex-West Brom and Swansea) in their line-up.

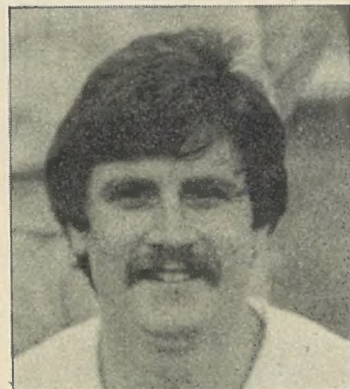
EIRE STARS IN STATES

TERRY DALY, Athlone Town's flying winger is playing for American club St. Louis this summer.

Daly's team-mate Carl Humphries was a big hit with St. Louis last year.

Another League of Ireland star in the States is Dundalk's former Eire international centre-half, Tommy McConville.

The 30-year-old defender has been with Washington Diplomats for the past two seasons, but he is hoping to earn a full-time contract this summer and finish his career in America.



ONLY 12 current clubs have operated in all four Divisions of the Football League. They are Bradford City, Brentford, Bury, Carlisle, Coventry, Crystal Palace, Grimsby, Luton, Huddersfield, Northampton, Notts County and Oldham.

Dressing-room lawyer

HIGHLAND LEAGUE club Elgin City have a practising lawyer on their books... left-back Gordon Buchan.

Many believe Gordon, who has a practice in Aberdeen, could have made the grade at a higher level in football.

Gordon, who had two seasons with Arbroath, says: "I must put my main profession first."

ONE of the most bitter-sweet experiences in football is to score for your own side and then put through your own goal.

It happened last season to Paul Mariner (with Plymouth), Ray Lugg (Crewe), Colin Franks (Sheffield United) and Steve Daley (Wolves).



Hot-shot Saint

SOUTHAMPTON and England striker Mike Channon tried his hand at a different kind of shooting when he paid a visit to the Royal Anglian Regiment in barracks on Salisbury Plain.

Mike takes aim with an 84mm anti-tank weapon, watched by the "expert" Corporal Dick Carter.

MALCOLM Macdonald's best day of the 1976-77 season came when he helped himself to a hat-trick against his previous club Newcastle, for Arsenal.

He's only the third player in the game to have achieved the feat.

The others were Derek Hales for Charlton against Luton, and Peter Noble for Burnley against Newcastle.

Lion with a pedigree

ARELATIVE newcomer to League football with a good soccer pedigree is Millwall's Chris Harris.

His father John was a Leeds United half-back, when the late Major Frank Buckley was manager at Elland Road, and his uncle Bill Harris was a Middlesbrough half-back and Welsh international star.

Ballymena United's £30,000

BALLYMENA UNITED'S £30,000 ground improvements should make the Co. Antrim club's venue the leading provincial stadium in Northern Ireland.

But Ballymena, who had spent a huge sum of new, ultra-modern dressing-rooms, had to play most of the 1976-77 season on a smaller, neighbouring ground, while their own Showgrounds pitch was being lengthened and given a new playing surface.

RAY Treacy should not have to worry too much about making a living when his football career comes to an end.

The West Bromwich and Republic of Ireland star has enough talent to make a go of things in show business.

He has a fine singing voice — in fact he's made a record — and is a natural as a compere.

Ray showed all these qualities when he organised the Republic's party after their World Cup defeat by France in Paris last November.

Once the depression over the defeat had worn off — in the wee small hours — Treacy's humour and talent made sure the party went with a swing.

WHEN Ipswich Town played host to Manchester United in a vital League game back in January it was very much a case of the city slickers against the country cousins.

United boss Tommy Docherty paraded just under £1 million worth of talent while his opposite number, Bobby Robson, sent out a team which contained only one imported player.

The expenditure of £30,000 to bring goalkeeper Paul Cooper from Birmingham City in the Summer of 1974 seemed very tame as he tried to halt an attack which contained two strikers — Lou Macari and Stuart Pearson — valued at £200,000 apiece.

But Robson had the last laugh as his young braves fought back after losing a first minute goal to take both

points and stay in the hunt for the League Championship.

Said the Town boss: "How could I be anything but extremely proud of my kids. They were terrific and their performance shows that the future of this club is secure for the next few years."

Helping to tame United were "unknown" Dale Roberts and Robin Turner, both of whom arrived at Portman Road from the North of England to become apprentices in the excellent Town youth scheme.

They got their chance that day because of injuries to centre-half Allan Hunter and striker Trevor Whymark, two of the biggest names in the game. And Town were also without the services of their costly buy from Plymouth last year, Paul Mariner.

"Mariner's place went to young Keith Bertschin,"



John Wark adapted brilliantly to a change of role.

"Unknown" Dale Roberts helped to tame the Manchester United super stars.



Young braves will keep Ipswich on THE TROPHY TRAIL

added Robson, "because he was the man in possession before we signed Paul and we knew what he could do."

"All our other lads — George Burley, Mick Mills, Brian Talbot, Kevin Beattie, Roger Osborne, John Wark and Clive Woods — came here as youngsters as well."

Youth played a vital part in the Ipswich title challenge. John Wark, for instance, was introduced to a midfield role at a time when Town looked anything but Championship contenders.

After several appearances in the back-four — remember his debut in that epic Cup battle with Leeds two seasons ago — Robson handed Wark the number eight shirt and the 19-year-old Scot responded in the best possible way.

Local lad Roger Osborne was another regular after the Robson reshuffle. He had come to Ipswich to watch his brother train with other young hopefuls and, after being asked to join in, was offered signing terms. Then kid

brother was released!

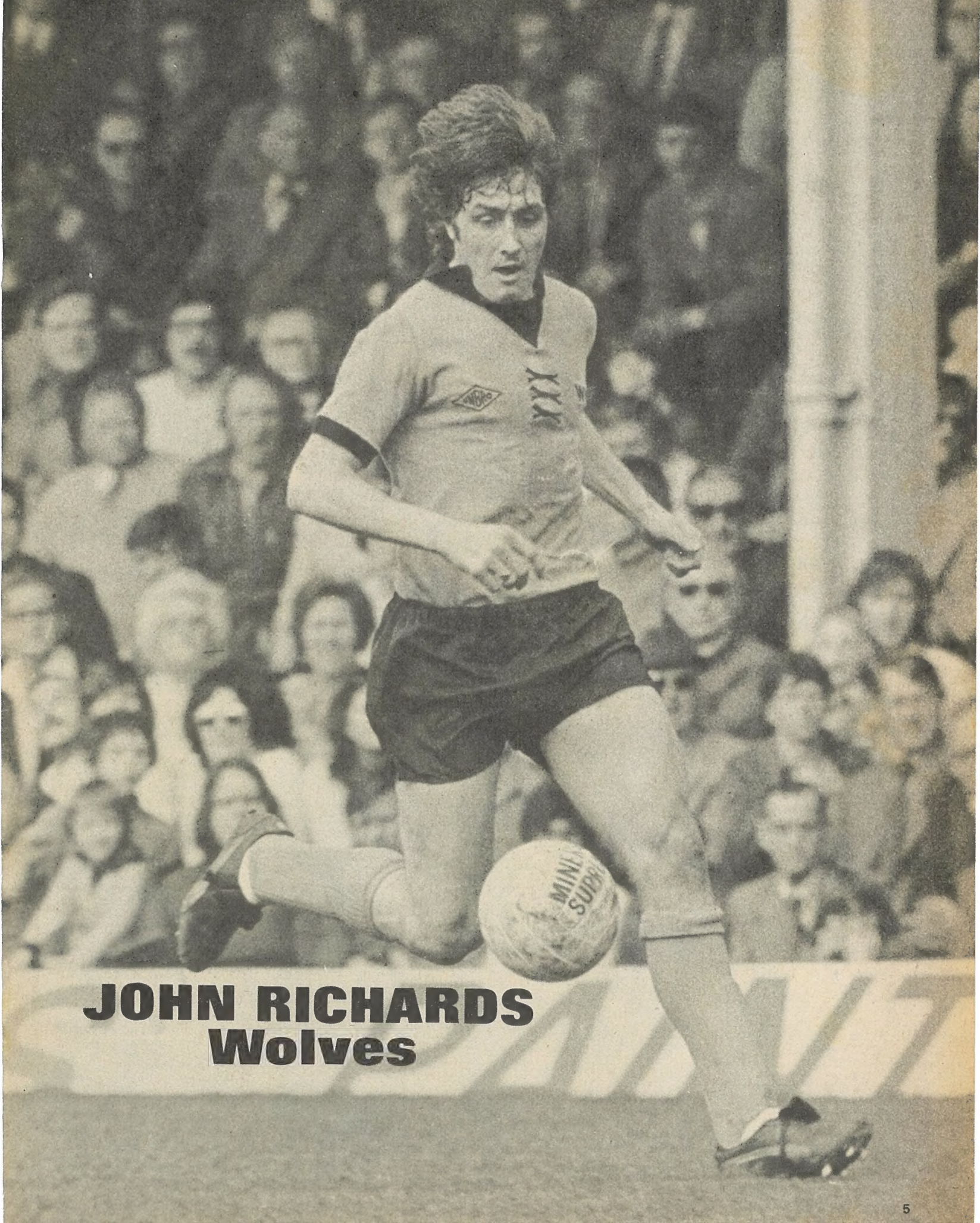
Another Ipswich-born player, Brian Talbot, made a brilliant recovery from a broken leg the previous season and won a place in the England squad alongside Mick Mills and Kevin Beattie.

George Burley, at 20, is almost a veteran by comparison with the other youngsters. He made his debut as a 17-year-old and has now been a regular for over three years.

And there are plenty more kids waiting to jump on the Portman Road conveyor belt because Ipswich scouts are sending the cream of the country's young talent to the club.

Says Bobby Robson: "The youth policy is the lifeblood of this club. We've got so many youngsters with first team potential that I sometimes can't believe it."

"We'll always make the occasional move into the transfer market, of course, but youth will always be our first consideration."



JOHN RICHARDS
Wolves

THE big problem with seasons becoming longer and longer is that players must get less and less chance to recover from the rigours of one campaign before they launch into another — with the resultant shortening of their careers.

Take last season, extended to cope with the Home Countries' World Cup qualifying matches.

The bad weather around Christmas created such a pile-up of matches the League programme was extended beyond May 21st, the day of the F.A. Cup Final.

Then there came the British Championship, followed by club tours and tours of South America by both Scotland and England.

It's placed a tremendous workload on the best players in the League — and means they'll have only a short break of about a fortnight before they are back in training, preparing for another season of striving for League and Cup success on the Home front — and possibly European action, too!

I wouldn't go so far as to call it slave labour, but it almost amounts to that. If you compare the number of games we play and our wages with those of Continental players in the top flight, we come off strictly second-best.

They are better-paid, have more freedom to negotiate contracts, and play fewer games, several of which are against "easy" opposition. In our First Division, every one of the 42 is hard because we have no "weak" teams.

A possible solution to ease our burden would be to have a mid-season break, like the Continentals, but that would involve reducing the number of teams in the First.

A Holiday

As soon as last season ended, many clubs departed for tours abroad, some going as far afield as Australia.

Apart from the strain of travelling, and sometimes the match venues are far apart, players generally regard such tours as a sort of holiday free from the pressures of competitive football.

The opposition's attitude, though, is often very different. They're mad-keen to grab a moment of glory by beating the famous visitors, whom they've probably only ever seen on television.

For clubs in the lower Divisions tours are a rare luxury. It's very difficult arranging matches in exotic parts, simply because foreign sides obviously prefer to play glamorous teams from the top drawer — such as Liverpool and Manchester United — who will attract the big crowds needed to cover costs.

So when my first club, Scunthorpe United, succeeded in fixing up a tour in sunny Spain in the late Sixties, we were over the moon with excitement.

For one thing, it meant we didn't have to take the usual part-time jobs to supplement our summertime wages from the club.

Mind you, we did go under false colours. The Spanish organisers were under the misapprehension we were the Fourth Division Champions. Far from it. We'd finished only

just above the re-election zone!

Naturally we didn't let on, and because we played so well they never suspected we weren't the real thing.

Playing like Champions, we won all three of our games, one by 5-0, in which I scored an incredible long-range goal.

Liverpool have a preference for playing one match in Spain, to recoup the expenses, and enjoying the sun and the sea for the rest of the ten days.

Unfortunately, I have often missed these tours through being on England duty. However, much as I liked being with my Liverpool mates, I put playing for my country first.

The opportunity to turn out in internationals against crack foreign teams always excites me, even if I am feeling jaded with too much club football.

Taking part in the American Bicentennial tournament in the summer of 1976 remains a high spot in my career. It was a marvellous experience lining-up against the likes of Pele, probably the greatest player the game has ever seen, and having the chance to watch the development of soccer in the States.

The sightseeing, too, proved a real bonus. A visit to Disneyland, a

place of dreams brought to reality, proved even more fascinating than I had anticipated.

Such-like tours are usually a preparation for more serious, important games.

After one narrow defeat against Brazil, victories over Italy and Team America, we went on to Finland for our first World Cup qualifying game, and scored a convincing 4-1 win.

The recent tour of South America, playing Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina, was to help England find the blend that will overcome our biggest barrier to joining the 16 Finalists for the 1978 World Cup — Italy!

The England tours are in complete contrast to the happy-go-lucky club tours that take place in the first part of the close-season, but similar in purpose to the ones that figure in pre-season training.

My first for Liverpool was before the 1971-72 season, when we went to Scandinavia and lost to Swedish side Sundsvall and beat Danish side Aarhus and another whose name I can't recall which lies near the Arctic circle.

A very memorable moment for me came when the Danes voted me man of the match.

These particular tours are now

'ENGLAND SHOULD HAVE A MID-SEASON



In the winter mud of Upton Park, Kevin tries to find a way past West Ham defender Frank Lampard.



regarded by Liverpool as an essential part of getting in tune for the season.

The emphasis isn't on getting results, it's mainly on polishing up our team-work, but our disappointing tour in 1976, when we lost to Feyenoord and Twente Enschede, and struggled against Roderkuk Rada, caused some worried frowns in our boardroom and David Johnson was bought from Ipswich to strengthen our attack.

I've just realised I've fallen into the trap of talking as though I'm still a Liverpool player.

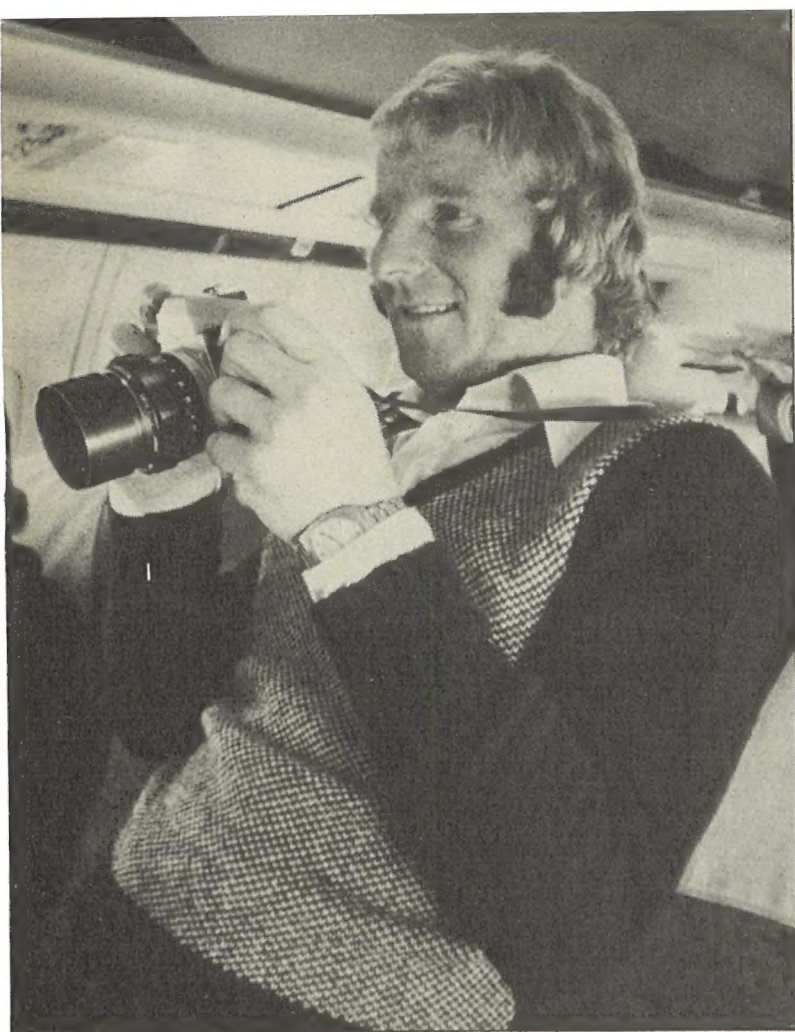
But as from June 3rd I'm a member of SV Hamburg, one of the top teams in the West German Bundesliga, their equivalent of our — sorry, I've slipped again — First Division of the Football League.

So instead of preparing for another season lining-up for Liverpool, I'm integrating myself into the set-up of a foreign team.

It's been a real boost for me, given my career the extra dimension which ensures that I don't go stale.

Everything is so different I feel almost as though I'm starting all over again.

I was very grateful to those people in England who realised that my signing for a club on the Continent was no reflection on Liverpool, that my reason for leaving was mainly



Coventry's BOBBY McDONALD has a message for his captain 'THANKS, TERRY'

COVENTRY City had just beaten Nottingham Forest 3-0 in the League Cup.

Forest boss Brian Clough went out of his way to see Bobby McDonald, City's left-back.

"Hey you," said Clough pointing to McDonald.

"You played very well tonight. So well, you can go into our guest room without a ticket."

A sporting, if joking gesture... but Cloughie meant what he had said.

And many other opposing managers last season sung the praises of the 21-year-old Scot who joined Coventry from Aston Villa for a modest £40,000 last August.

McDonald had tasted success at Villa. A League Cup winners' medal was followed by an important role in Villa's promotion to Division One.

Changes in the Villa set-up meant that McDonald could not play his favourite position of left-back... and the club had so many gifted midfield men that manager Ron Saunders found McDonald a talented surplus.

Coventry boss Gordon Milne stepped in... and when you come to play that favourite soccer game of selecting the bargain of 1976/77 — bear Bobby McDonald's name in mind.

He says: "I'll do my best in any position, but I'm happiest at full-back. I particularly like the challenge of a marking job."

"The experience of playing in midfield gave me an appetite to go forward."

"I don't score too many goals, although my surges upfield have helped to make chances for others."

"I came into the side at the same time as Terry Yorath, who joined us from Leeds United."

"Terry helped me settle down. He's a first-class professional and an inspiring captain."

"Terry encouraged me a lot which gave me the confidence I needed."

McDonald has no regrets leaving a big club like Villa for Coventry.

"Everything at Highfield Road is geared towards success. I see no reason why we shouldn't win a trophy in the not too distant future."

"The team-spirit is tremendous. Quite a few new faces were introduced last season, yet we all struck up a friendship right away."

"There are no cliques and we all



BREAK'

Above: Liverpool's Alec Lindsay captures the holiday spirit during a flight to Oslo. Below: While in the States, Kev visited Disneyland.

because I needed the spur of new challenges, that my game would inevitably suffer if I stayed where I had already achieved virtually all that can be won at club level.

I'll still be thinking about Liverpool, though, and following their progress in a competition in Amsterdam, in which their opponents will be Ajax, St. Etienne, and F.C. Bruges.

And I definitely won't be losing contact with SHOOT readers. I'll be sending in regular reports, so you'll continued to keep up with



Kevin Keegan

felt part of the club in no time.

"We had some very good results last season, which showed that on our day we are as good — or even better — than anyone."

"Our aim now must be towards consistency. We mustn't drop the sort of silly home points that separates the top teams from the also-rans."

Villa, of course, had a better season than The Sky Blues. McDonald has no regrets, though.

"I'm playing regular first team football and that's what matters to a professional."

"I'm loving every minute of it. I enjoyed my career at Villa, but that's in the past."

"It's good to see them doing well but my priorities are with Coventry."

Some of the League's top strikers — including Kevin Keegan — found McDonald a tough opponent.

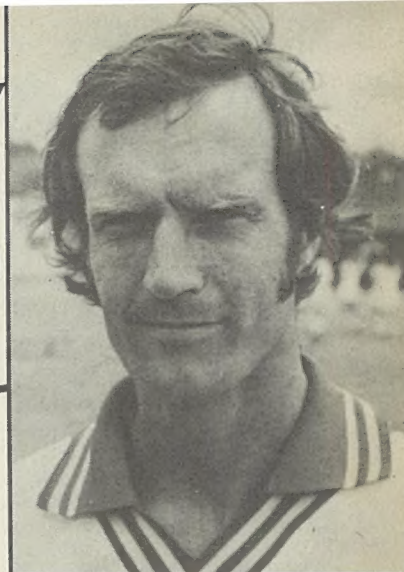
His philosophy: "I try to get to the ball before the opponent. If I manage this, he can't do much with it, can he?"

In this case, Bobby's actions speak even louder than his words!



DENNIS TUEART
Manchester City

TREVOR WORKS HIS WAY TO THE TOP



FOR someone who is still only 23, a lot has happened to Trevor Francis.

At the age of 16, he was rather unfortunately — if understandably — given the Superboy tag after scoring four goals for Birmingham City against Bolton Wanderers in a League game.

Now, some six years later, Francis at last has had the recognition his early potential promised.

His first England cap against Holland in February took a long time coming ... and if England generally were disappointing against the Dutch, Francis at least could be satisfied with HIS performance.

In between those four goals and that full cap Francis grabbed his share of headlines.

Injury-prone ... wants a transfer ... doesn't work hard enough ... Francis has certainly seen the ups and downs of the soccer world in a short time.

He says: "It annoys me when people say I'm always injured. How many other 23-year-olds can claim to have played more than 200 League games, mostly in the First Division?"

"My mistake, if you can call it that, was being forced to withdraw from one of Don Revie's early England squads.

"I was injured on the Saturday and a troublesome knee kept me out for four months.

"Apart from that, I've had only the usual knocks and aches.

"All my career I've wanted to play for England. It wasn't easy against Holland who are a superb side.

"I've put in a lot of work on my game to improve it all-round. I'm not making excuses, but it was a struggle to get going when Birmingham were always battling against relegation.

"Now, we have a promising side. Kenny Burns had a tremendous season. Wingers Garry Jones and John Connolly made sure we played an attacking 4-2-4 formation and this definitely helped me.



"Trevor is the most difficult player I've had to mark," says Leeds defender Paul Madeley (top of page).

"Even in away games, we go forward a lot, whereas before we were more cautious. This meant most of our best performances were at home.

"When you're desperate for points, though, you don't have the confidence to express yourself on opponents' grounds.

"This is undoubtedly the best team I've played in during my six years at St. Andrews."

Francis does not like to be known as an out-and-out striker.

"There's a lot more to my game than simply scoring. I create a lot of chances and after all, it doesn't matter who scores them.

"Kenny Burns was our second best scorer last season, yet somebody has to lay on these goals.

"Even so, I believe my average is something like one goal every three matches. Considering I played in midfield for a spell, that's not too bad, is it?"

"I'm also doing more defensive work now."

Paul Madeley, that so experienced Leeds United defender, has no doubts about Francis's ability.

The 32-year-old Elland Roader says: "Trevor is the most difficult player I've had to mark in my League career.

"I was glad that he was given the chance to play for England. I think he'll be around on the international scene for quite a while.

"He puts a lot more into his game now. This makes him very difficult to mark.

"Also, Trevor has incredible control in tight situations. He reads the game very well."

Madeley's praise hits the nail on the head. Talent alone isn't enough these days unless it's applied properly.

The Dutch showed us at Wembley that they are superbly skilled, yet don't let their technique fool you that they don't work hard.

Trevor Francis, unlike some popular choices for England, has proved to Don Revie that he is a complete team player.

Which is why Madeley's prediction that "he'll be on the international scene for quite a while" will undoubtedly come true.

“**W**HAT makes you think you know everything?” inquired the awkward P.S. to one letter. And, as Eric Morecambe says, “There’s no answer to that!”

Well, perhaps there is — an honest one. I DON’T know the solutions to all your problems. Not by a very long way.

All I can promise any reader who writes in to the “Ask the Expert” column is that I’ll do my best to find out — from reference-books, old programmes, personal contacts, and anything or anyone who DOES know.

And, if it’s interesting

Russia is the only nation I can think of from which at least one or two haven’t arrived sometime or other in the eight years since the “Ask the Expert” column kicked-off.

And, of course, they come from much farther afield than Europe, too — many of them asking questions about clubs and players involved in the regular TV recordings of top British games they see in their homeland.

More and more come from Australia and New Zealand these days — and, since soccer has had a big boost in the United States, the fans out there are also beginning to get

Every week in SHOOT, readers have their arguments settled and queries answered by one of soccer’s foremost statisticians. Now we invite you to . . .

MEET THE EXPERT

enough to other readers as well, I’ll print the answer in the weekly column.

Hundreds of letters are received every week, and lack of space obviously allows only a very tiny proportion to be used.

But this much I do promise. Every one is READ in time — even though, much as I’d like to, it’s just not on to reply to them all personally.

So, if your letter isn’t published, just keep on trying with other questions!

Here’s a tip. Try one about some of the “lesser” clubs.

It stands to reason — if the column isn’t to be filled to over-flowing with the likes of Liverpool or Leeds or Manchester United — you stand a much better chance with an interesting question instead about, say, Tranmere or Torquay.

Although, naturally enough, the bulk of letters come from the British Isles . . . offhand,

in on the act.

But, letter-wise, overseas pride-of-place must undoubtedly go to our friends in the Singapore and Malaysia area.

When it comes back to home readers, though, obviously a lot will come up with the same topical question at the same time.

So, if you see “your” question printed under someone else’s name, please don’t think I’m pulling a fast one on you.

They say great minds think alike — and it’s just that some other reader has beaten you by a short-head to the letter-box!

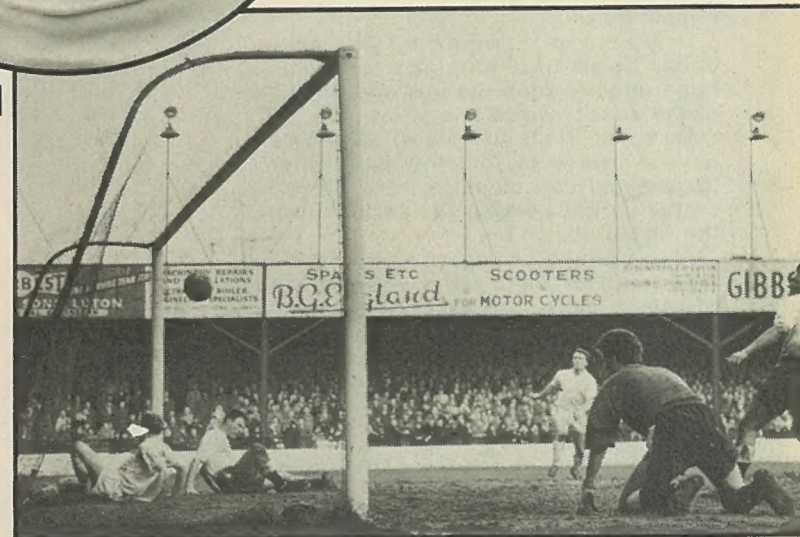
Inevitably, too, there are a number of “stock” questions which crop-up week by week, year by year — and, of course, we can’t keep on printing the same ones.

At a fair guess, I’d say about the favourite is: “Who scored six goals in an F.A. Cup-tie, and none of them counted?”



Above: Match officials splash through rain water and decide to abandon the Fourth Round F.A. Cup-tie between Luton and Manchester City.

Left: So Denis Law’s six goals at Kenilworth Road on 20th January, 1961 didn’t count. Below: Law scored again when the tie was replayed. Here’s the goal. But Luton sensationally won 3-1.



The answer again — to save you a stamp in case you were thinking of becoming yet another reader to ask that one! — is Denis Law, for Manchester City at Luton in the Fourth Round on 20th January, 1961.

The reason they didn’t count — City, two goals down early on, were leading 6-2 when torrential rain caused the game to be abandoned after 69 minutes with all Law’s goals literally washed-out.

Incidentally, Law scored

when the tie was played all over again a few days later — but this time Luton won comfortably by 3-1 in one of the Cup’s strangest-ever turnabouts.

And there’s another very popular question — “Why is a local derby so-called?” — which is one I’ve never answered. And for the very good reason that I — or, for that matter, anyone else I can find — just haven’t a clue!

Wish someone would tell ME . . .



'THE SECRET OF SUCCESS'

by Arfon Griffiths
(Wrexham)

WHAT a difference a year makes! What a difference three years made to my career — and those three years were divided.

You see, I had been at Wrexham just 18 months when Arsenal paid what I suppose was a bigish fee in those days for my transfer.

Anyway, my 18 months at Highbury turned out to be a kind of schizophrenic "honeymoon." George Swindin was the manager who took me to Arsenal and everything was going nicely.

Then Billy Wright took over and so, I suppose, the "honeymoon," was ended.

The former England captain tried to alter my style. I didn't argue. After all, the club pay the wages and the manager is paid to run it. I could see no possibility of my adapting my style to suit the requirements of the new boss.

I tried... I tried hard. I am a professional and as such always endeavoured to play the way the manager thought was best for the club.

However, it was no good and just 18 months after joining Arsenal I was transferred back

to Wrexham.

But I have no regrets at going to Arsenal. I learned a lot during my 18 months at Highbury.

That's the secret of success in this game — keep learning. Always listen to advice; always enjoy yourself on the pitch.

It is 14 years now since I returned to Wrexham and I am still learning; still listening.

Even more so since my appointment as player-manager at the end of last season in succession to John Neal, who left to take over at Middlesbrough.

At the moment, I aim to keep playing. At 35, I could be a bit slower. That's the time when the experience and the advice you have picked up comes in so useful.

You are only as old as you feel. I mean, I was recalled to the Welsh team in 1974 and played against West Germany in our Centenary match.

I think that was my 16th international, but I have no

check. But I do remember scoring the goal that I rate gave me the most pleasure.

It was against England at Wembley in May, 1975 and put us 2-1 up. Victory was in sight and it seemed there would be singing in the valleys, but with time running out David Johnson, who is now with Liverpool, equalised.

Good Result

Yet, a draw was a very good result for us. Don't forget that Wales have to go into the Third and Fourth Divisions in search of players.

My two big regrets last season? Wrexham just missing out on promotion again and having to pull out of the Welsh squad for the British Championship because of injury.

As you know, Crystal Palace just pipped us to that third promotion spot to the Second Division.

I only hope that in my first season in charge we can at last get the success we deserve.

Charlton's top scorer MIKE FLANAGAN explains... WHY CHARLTON MUST SCORE IN EVERY GAME

TO say Charlton Athletic fans were disappointed when the club sold their prize goal-getter Derek Hales to Derby County is like saying it's rather nice to win the F.A. Cup... a bit of an understatement!

The Valley followers accused the club of lacking ambition.

It is no reflection on the 25-year-old £300,000 Derby striker when Charlton supporters say Derek Hales isn't missed.

Because Mike Flanagan, a likeable East Ender, has hardly stopped scoring since Hales left.

Flanagan, 23, was somewhat overshadowed by Hales, perhaps understandably so.

How does he feel now that he is Charlton's main goal-scorer?

"Let's face it. You can't lose a player of Derek's calibre and not notice the difference.

He had scored a goal a game throughout 1976 and that sort of consistency must be missed.

"I realised when Derek left I would have more responsibility. I made a vow to work even harder, not just in attack but everywhere.

"Previously, I tended to create chances for others. Last season I became greedy.

The manager — Andy Nelson — changed my role when Derek left. I became a sort of freelance striker rather than a winger, where I had operated before.

There was a change-around, with Hugh McAuley arriving from Plymouth. This meant we had two orthodox flankmen — Colin Powell is the other.

Then young Tony Burman came in, took over Derek's number eight shirt and did ever so well.

There must be a lot of pressure on the Charlton forwards because Athletic's defence is one of the most generous in the Division.

It's almost true to say we start 1-0 down because of our



poor defensive record, although in fairness things were better in the second-half of the season.

All the same, we are in an unenviable position of having to score to even secure a draw.

Despite this, the manager is reluctant to sacrifice any of our attacking qualities, thank goodness.

Ironically for Flanagan, the enthusiasm to further his career has probably cost him an international future.

"Some years ago I played for England as an amateur. It was a great opening for me, or so I thought, and I jumped at the chance."

Since then, F.I.F.A. introduced the ruling where a player can represent the country of his parents' birth.

The Republic of Ireland wanted me to play for them, but I couldn't. What a disappointment!

"Who knows... I might have been playing World Cup football now?"



SUNDAY . . . and a spot of gardening.

AT the moment I am enjoying the close-season. A short rest before reporting back to Old Trafford to begin preparations for the 1977-78 campaign.

I've told you how I'm spending the break in SHOOT, so I thought I'd devote my Special column to a typical week during the actual season.

SUNDAY is a very boring day as far as I'm concerned . . . a dead day.

Occasionally I'll have a cup of tea in bed before getting up around 9.30 a.m. Just in time for The Archers!

While I'm eating my tea and toast — no traditional bacon, eggs and fried slice for me — I'll browse through the Sunday Times looking at the personal registration plates for cars.

At the moment I'm searching for GH 11 to go on my new Mercedes. So if any of you readers know where to get hold of it please write to me c/o SHOOT, or to Old Trafford.

After breakfast I usually potter around the house doing any odd jobs that I can't put off any longer. Maybe do a bit of gardening. Then I'll clean the car . . . if it's really dirty.

If I've had a "knock" in the game the day before I make the 50-minute drive to Old T. for treatment, by our physio Lawrie Brown.

On the way home I might stop in a quiet country pub for half a lager. Normally, though, I don't drink at lunchtime.

A visit to the local on a Sunday is something many of my mates look forward to. But the only tradition I stick to on a Sunday is roast beef and Yorkshire pudding for lunch.

Like most people, this is one meal of the week I really look forward to.

After lunch I watch the soccer on TV and have a little doze in my favourite chair.

Sometimes we might go out later in the afternoon to visit friends. Before that, though, I'll have a long soak in a hot bath to relax my muscles. Great, that.

Later in the evening Jackie and I will sit watching the film on TV

before going to bed at around 11.00 p.m.

MONDAY. Unless United are playing in midweek this is our day off.

I get up at 8.30 a.m., have some tea and toast, feed Kerry her breakfast and then get ready to go out.

Normally I'll take Jackie and Kerry into Macclesfield for shopping and an early lunch in a little restaurant we know.

Then it's back home so I can go off for an afternoon's shooting at Mottram Hall. As regular readers of my column will know, that's a hotel in Cheshire which allows me to use its grounds for small game hunting.

I make a point of always being at home on a Monday evening to watch "Charlie's Angels" or the film on TV.

Back to business on **TUESDAY.** I'm up at the usual time and out of

word puzzle.

If United are playing a vital match on the Saturday, say a Cup-tie, **WEDNESDAYS** are a bit special — and hot.

Players have to report to Old Trafford earlier than usual to catch the coach to Blackpool.

We arrive at around 11.00 a.m. and go straight to the Turkish Baths, for saunas and massage.

Most players enjoy a sauna. It's surprising how fit and well you feel after one. Really tones you up.

Around 1 o'clock the coach leaves Blackpool and drives to a restaurant owned by a United fan,

my soccer scene
GORDON HILL

A WEEK IN



Sam Smythe' out at Chorley.

Sam lays it all on for us . . . steaks, fish, scampi, anything we like. This is a real treat for us, because it's probably the only real meal we'll have all week.

An hour and a half later we leave and arrive back at Old T. about 3.30 p.m. when most of the lads make their way home.

I always enjoy driving to and from work, listening to my tapes on the stereo. The ideal way to relax from the tensions of the game.

Wednesday evening I'll watch "Sportsnight," or a match if there's one on.

I might even go to a game if Man. City, Stockport, Derby or Stoke are at home. They are all within an hour's drive of my home. No distance.

If I do go out on a Wednesday evening, I'm tempted to have a few minutes' lie in on **THURSDAYS** — but Radio One won't let me.

I've got this radio alarm clock

SATURDAY . . . what it's all about. United at home in front of nearly 60,000 fans and Gordon on the ball . . . this time v. Q.P.R.

THURSDAY . . . maybe a business meeting, or a trip to a Sports factory.



which is permanently tuned to Radio One and it blares out non-stop music from about eight o'clock onwards. I daren't switch off in case I go back to sleep or leave it going full blast for long in case I disturb the neighbours.

Anyhow, Thursday morning is no different to any other day. After tea and toast, a kiss for Jackie and little Kerry and I'm on my way to The Cliff.

Training varies day-by-day at United. Today it's five-a-sides, after a series of sprints to get us really warmed up. We end the session with shooting practice. Even the gaffer, Tommy Docherty, has been known to join in.

Sometimes on a Thursday I'll have lunch with a friend, or go to the Grill Room with the other lads.

This day I also try to set aside for any business meetings I might have to attend, or maybe a trip to the Mitre Sports factory in Huddersfield. I endorse their footballs.

MY LIFE

I don't normally get home much before five, then it's play-time with little Kerry.

Playing with my daughter is a favourite "hobby". Unfortunately, my profession doesn't allow me to spend as much time with her and Jackie as I'd like.

After a meal of say, steak and salad, I'll settle down in front of the box to watch one of my favourite programmes... "Top of the Pops."

If there's no good film on afterwards, I'll get out my typewriter to answer more letters and catch up with business correspondence and pay any outstanding bills.

FRIDAY mornings I drive straight to Old Trafford because this day we train at the ground.

Five-a-sides

Nothing too strenuous, mind, just some sprints to get the breathing going and then a game of five-a-sides on a corner of the pitch.

Tommy Doc's there as usual with coach Tommy Cavanagh, but there are no tactical talks. The opposition is hardly mentioned. We let them worry about United.

After training, the reporters from Radio Manchester and Radio Piccadilly arrive, along with those from the Manchester Evening News.

They interview the players and Tommy Doc to get the latest news and for comments on the game next day.

Normally I'll break away to have lunch with a particular mate of mine, Tom Tyrell, a sports commentator with Radio Piccadilly.

After lunch I go shopping with Tom... to the butchers to collect our meat for the weekend.

If United are at home on a Saturday I go straight home and relax. If we are due to play away in the South, say London, we report to catch the train for an overnight stay.

Friday nights in a hotel for me is one of the drawbacks of being a player... totally boring. Still, I have to accept it as part of the job.

For home games on a SATURDAY, the most important day of the week, players have to be at Old Trafford by 12.00 so I leave home at around 11.00.

Lunch for players is all laid on in the Grill Room. I have cornflakes and a couple of slices of toast. Some of the other lads enjoy a steak or eggs, nothing else.

After lunch we watch "On The Ball" or "Football Focus" on the TV. Then I go down to the office to sort out the tickets I want to leave at the gate.

I drop the tickets off at the main entrance and then collect any mail there might be for me.

I read as many as I can before going down to the dressing-room to start preparing for the match.

Then it's out on the park to do the job I'm paid for. Helping United

win matches and entertaining the crowd. This is what it's all about — match day at Old T.

Saturday evenings is generally quiet for me... at home relaxing with my family and maybe a few friends. I don't go out for a meal like most players, because it takes a long time to unwind after a game.

Anyhow, that's a typical week in my life during the season.

Before I close, I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking all those people who've written to me c/o Old Trafford or the SHOOT editorial offices.

I really enjoy receiving your letters and promise I do read every one.

And as you know, I answer some of the more interesting in my SHOOT column.

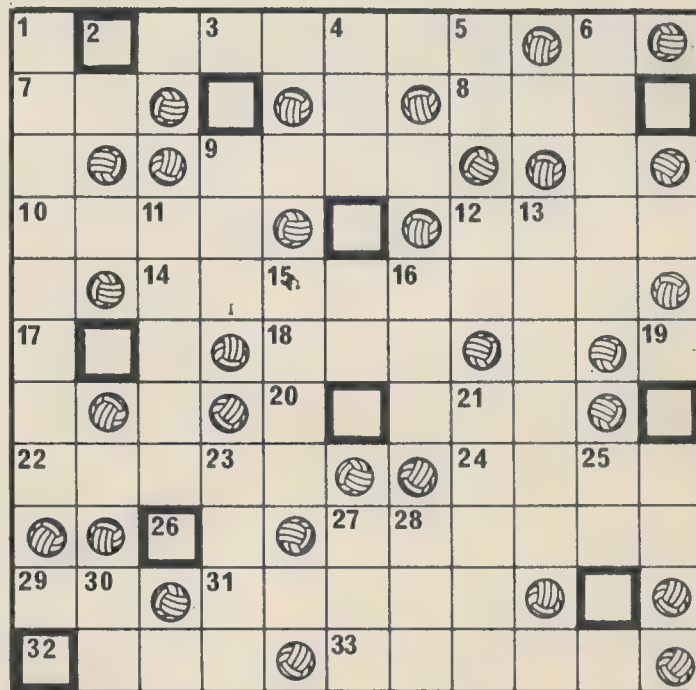
However, can I ask those readers wanting autographs to please, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

So, have a great holiday and I look forward to meeting you all again every week in SHOOT.

All the best...

Lord H.

Go for the Double



After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Q.P.R. star. Answers on page 55.

CLUES ACROSS:—

- (1) Len ———, West Bromwich Albion player.
- (7) DAVID T—G of Blackpool.
- (8) Be unsuccessful.
- (9) M—L —CHI— (Norwich City). The missing letters in reverse.
- (10) Consumes food to complete H—R—S (of Scotland).
- (12) Part of the foot.
- (14) Club — topped Division Three, season 1975/76.
- (17) The number of club names in the Scottish Premier Division last term which begin with the letter "A".
- (18) BOBBY MO—, Footballer of the Year, 1963/64.
- (20) — Perryman of Spurs.
- (22) The World Cup competition is held every four —.
- (24) COL—DD of Derby County.
- (26) —I—N. Complete the name of a Swiss club.
- (27) Hesitate; in tackling, perhaps.
- (29) Norwich City, THE C—ARIES.
- (31) WES—B—OMW—CH —BION. Path from the missing letters.
- (32) Take four letters from FOLA ESCH (Luxembourg) for a comfortable article of furniture.
- (33) It precedes "stand" for somewhere to sit!

CLUES DOWN:—

- (1) ——— City. The Sky Blues from Highfield Road.
- (2) JAMES M—N of Bristol City.
- (3) Highly strung — as before an important match.
- (4) Mick ———, Ipswich Town forward.
- (5) JIMMY GREENH—F of Man. Utd.
- (6) ——— Mill, ground of Mansfield Town.
- (11) Rod ———, Derby County full-back.
- (12) BRIAN BA—N, Chelsea player.
- (13) English Second Division club from Brisbane Road.
- (15) Trevor ———, Arsenal defender.
- (16) Could be expensive if a "transfer" one.
- (19) Mill—, Rotherham United ground.
- (21) The Villians, First Division club from — Park, Birmingham.
- (23) List of players (for instance) for special training in turn.
- (25) Look after and complete SOU—H—.
- (27) Make tired or weary.
- (28) PL—NMOO—, Torquay United ground.
- (29) Derby County, THE R—M—.
- (30) —TTS COUNTY, The Magpies.

Don Gillies, the Bristol City star who has successfully converted from striker to defender says . . .

'WHY I'M GLAD I MOVED BACK'

IT'S easier being a defender than a striker. That's my considered opinion after having spent most of last season as right-back for City.

How can I make that comparison? Simple! When I started out in football with Inverness Clachnacuddin it was as a striker. Greenock Morton signed me from the Highland League side as a striker. And City did likewise when they took me to the West Country over three years ago.

The main difference is in the pressure. Playing up front you are expected to score goals. If you miss, you are a dead-loss. Score . . . and you're a hero.

Like I was on May 19th at Highfield Road when my equalising goal against Coventry meant First Division survival for Bristol City.

It's not like that at the back. A mistake can be covered up by a colleague. Even if he fails, the 'keeper can make a good save.

But if a striker misses a chance, his ears will be burning for days. That's what I meant about pressure. It's easy — you just don't have to score at the back. At the same time an "own goal" would earn the defender a lot of stick.

Which all adds up to the fact that I am happy in defence. I suspect, too, that manager Alan Dicks is equally happy. At least he keeps playing me there, although he did move me back up front for a short spell towards the end of last

term.

My lucky day was at Oxford, when Gerry Sweeney was injured early in the match. The sub came on and I was dropped into the defence. I dreaded it at the time, but I came through it all right and by the end of the action I began to get the hang of the job.

Lucky for me? Unlucky for Gerry Sweeney? Not really, for when his injury cleared up Gerry came back into the side as a midfield player and has done a marvellous job.

It is not in anyway meant to

be boastful, but I have found that my years in the attack have been of great benefit to me as a defender. In the attack, it is necessary to turn quickly and be extra sharp.

Nowadays I am facing the ball most of the time and don't have to turn so often. If I am beaten on the turn, the pace which I required up front is more than useful in getting another tackle in on your opponent.

My task is made easier, too, because I have the assistance of Garry Collier and Geoff Merrick. Thank goodness Geoff and Tom Ritchie didn't accept the chance of joining Arsenal last year.

Being a wee bit canny like most Scots, I'm not going to shout the odds and say that we'll win the First Division title with a few years. One thing I do know, however, is that it will not be for the want of trying.

When I was with Clachnacuddin the thought of even having the chance of playing in the English First Division never even entered my head. I used to travel from Fort William every Saturday, play for Clach and return home quite contented with my lot.

One thing is certain, though, heavy grounds don't bother me. Fort William, you see has the highest average rainfall in Britain — around 87 inches a year. Ask the Met Office if you don't believe me.

But we never played football in wellies!



PHIL FEELS THE STRAIN



Q.P.R. 'keeper Phil Parkes jumps for joy when his side is awarded a penalty v. Aston Villa in the League Cup Semi-Final second-leg.



He can't bear to watch as Don Givens takes the spot-kick. He then stares in disbelief after Don's shot has been saved. Final frustration for Phil. The game ended 2-2 after extra-time, and Villa won the replay at Highbury 3-0 to go through to Wembley. No wonder Phil feels the strain and buries his head.



Willie Maddren

became a top defender
by accident

OVER the past few seasons, Middlesbrough have become known as a side hard to break down that gives little away particularly in defence. And in the heart of the back-four has been Willie Maddren.

The tall sweeper has played consistently well and many people rate the likeable Maddren very unlucky not to have won England caps.

"I am naturally disappointed," says Willie. "Especially after I made Don Revie's first two squads that he named when he became boss of England.

"I shall have to try to maintain consistency so Mr. Revie will notice me again. I would dearly love a full cap to go alongside the five Under-23 honours I already have."

Maddren has played a vital role for Boro since his debut in 1969 but has he always played in defence?

"No. I began first as an inside-forward in local football," remembers Maddren. "I had trials with Leeds United but while at Elland Road I had the misfortune to break an ankle.

"Then after joining Middlesbrough, and at the age of 16, injury struck again when I had to have a cartilage operation."

From these set-backs came a much more determined Maddren. "While I was in hospital I made my mind up to really have a go at establishing myself at Ayresome."

He certainly succeeded because in April, 1969, he made the first team.

Says Willie: "The then manager Stan Anderson decided to give some of his youngsters a chance for the last home game of the season against Bury."

But even his debut wasn't without incident. "I scored quite a good header," says Maddren. "But then five minutes later I broke my nose in a heading clash. And we still lost 3-2!"

After making a competent start as an inside-forward when did he move back?

"I only had a few games up-front," remembers local-born Maddren. "I moved into midfield but during a match, our centre-half was injured and I covered the position and played well and I've been there since."

Middlesbrough were a Second Division club at the time and although they were always near to promotion they couldn't strike the consistency to take them into the

First — until Jack Charlton became manager at the start of the 1973-74 season.

"Jack inherited a good side," says Willie. "But he is such a good coach and got the best out of us. We stormed to promotion as Champions in his first term. Like all the lads I was sorry he left at the end of the season."

Since Boro gained First Division status, the Ayresome Park club has become a solid outfit. But they have also been criticised as a boring side.

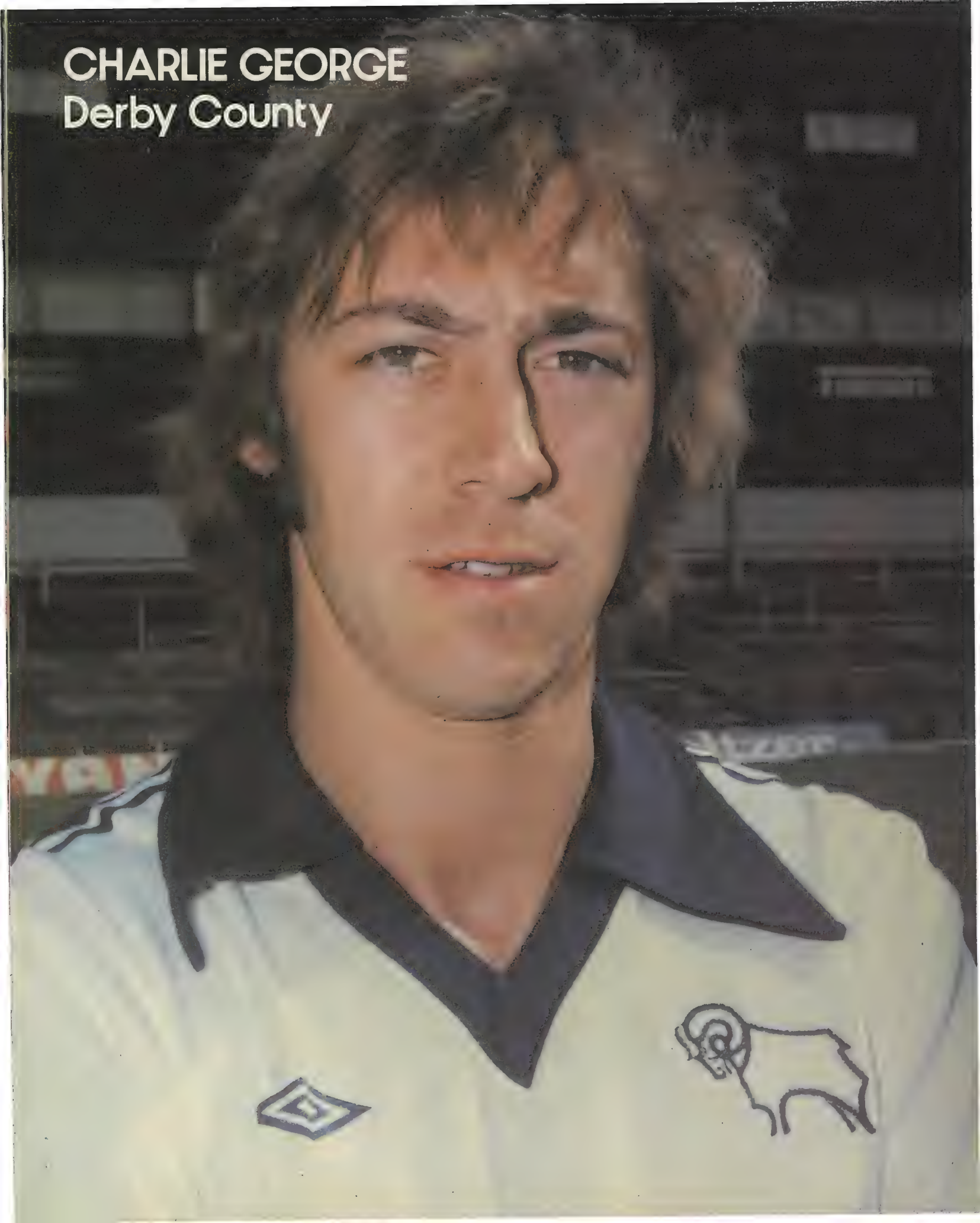
"It used to needle the players here," says Willie. "But not any more.

"I believe it is because the club lacks tradition and publicity. I remember when Middlesbrough travelled to Spurs for a League Cup game a couple of seasons ago.

"We hammered them 4-0 and instead of praise the Press still accused us of negative tactics. We realised then we could never win — although we will always try to prove the critics and fans wrong."



CHARLIE GEORGE
Derby County



HOW DO EUROPEANS

to find the answers to these searching questions SHOOT contacted our correspondents on the Continent.

From Danny Geerts,
Antwerp, Belgium.

1. Without doubt the Liverpool pair Kevin Keegan and John Toshack. Also well-known are Mike Channon, Billy Bremner and Alan Ball.

2. Liverpool, Manchester Utd. and Leeds because of their fine record in Europe. They are shown more than other clubs on our T.V. Celtic also have many admirers because of their Euro record.

3. Personally, it's Bobby Moore for me. The way he played . . . calm, efficient, acting and playing as a captain should . . . will always stay with me. I also liked Bobby Charlton and I've heard a lot about Sir Stanley Matthews. Billy Bremner's fighting spirit fascinated me and Jimmy Johnstone had many skills.

4. Gerry Francis and Trevor Brooking would definitely make the grade. Their tactical insight is far ahead of other English players. Stan Bowles, too, has European techniques. Celtic's Danny McGrain would win a place in most teams. Such sporting, tough-tackling full-backs are rare.

5. No, I'd say MORE skilful. There is a bigger emphasis on tactics in Europe, but a good tactical player isn't necessarily skilful. A lot of Continental soccer is safety-first. From watching British football, I've noticed forwards have more scope to beat players. Over here they're chopped down quickly.

6. Because England "worry" too much about entertaining fans rather than playing "winning football". In my view, entertainment is more important than the result but most Europeans don't bother too much about the supporters.

7. England, because of the spectacular action and its electric atmosphere.

From José Alberto
Fernandes, Gondomar,
Portugal

1. WHICH BRITISH PLAYERS ARE MOST POPULAR IN YOUR COUNTRY?

1. Bobby Charlton and George Best. Both have shown their skills against Benfica in the European Cup and Bobby was a great player for England.

2. There are not too many admirers of foreign teams around here, but sides such as Manchester United, Arsenal, Celtic, Liverpool and Rangers have a few fans.

3. Billy Bremner, whose non-stop style has made him one of Europe's "greats".

4. In Portugal, British defenders would do very well. Men like Kevin Beattie and Martin Buchan would improve any club. Peter Lorimer would be a sensation with his shooting. George Best, Duncan McKenzie and Stan Bowles could adapt and cause defenders nightmares.

5. I'd say Portuguese players are probably more skilful. Skill doesn't seem that important in Britain because defenders don't give forwards any room. Players with close-control are seen many times on the ground in pain.

6. English fans and the Press must realise the team is in a transitional period. There is no Bobby Charlton now . . . no Bobby Moore. England desperately need a Charlton to supply telling passes to the front men.

7. I'd love the chance to watch English football regularly. There is so much emotion and action.

From Michael Hendrix,
Amsterdam, Holland.

1. Kevin Keegan, George Best, Billy Bremner, Malcolm Macdonald, Norman Hunter, Bobby Charlton . . . as you see, mostly older players.

2. Liverpool, Leeds, Manchester Utd. and Celtic.

3. A hard question. I'd have to plump for Gordon Banks, though.

4. Most could, if they slowed down just a little. Some names: Tony Currie, Trevor Brooking, Stan Bowles, Kevin Keegan, Clive Woods and, despite Anderlecht, Duncan McKenzie.

2. WHICH CLUBS FROM BRITAIN HAVE THE MOST ADMIRERS?

5. In close control there isn't much difference. In stamina — British are tops. Tactics — you are behind Europe.

6. Have they? I can remember some good results. Now, the balance of the team is wrong, with players being used in unfamiliar roles. If England want international success, they must open their borders to foreign coaches and cut down their incredibly silly League programme. As long as the national manager has little co-operation England won't make it to the top.

7. Believe it or not, Italy. Not many goals, but very technical play.

From Giuseppe Matarrese,
Milan, Italy.

1. Right now, it's Kevin Keegan, but he can't compete with Bobby Charlton when the United star was playing.

2. Manchester United because Bobby Charlton played for them.

3. Stan Mortensen, who scored England's first goal in their famous 4-0 win in Turin (1948).

4. I'd say Kevin Keegan, Rodney Marsh, Stan Bowles and Mike Channon.

5. Only one British player can be compared skill-wise to Europeans — Stan Bowles. The rest of your stars have less skill, which is mainly due to the speed of the British game. This is especially true in Scotland, where there are high-scoring domestic games, but in Europe a Scottish team rarely ends up as the better one.

6. Some players simply aren't good enough and shouldn't have been played for a start. England's preparation is wrong, but perhaps the main reason is that the England team is made up from so many different clubs. This means the understanding isn't there. Italy have virtually a Juventus/Torino select — and it shows in the team-work.

7. Brazil, where football has become an art. Even when Brazil have a bad spell, they are surely still better than others? As for

3. WHICH BRITISH PLAYER OF ALL-TIME DO YOU LIKE MOST?

Europe, I'd choose West Germany.

From Raymond Formosa,
Birkirkara, Malta.

1. Easy — Kevin Keegan. Many Maltese fans are England supporters and English international stars are well-liked. Andy Gray is popular at the moment, too.

2. I think almost everyone on our island follows Manchester Utd. After them — Liverpool and Leeds, my favourite.

3. Sir Stanley Matthews, not just because he lives here now. The devotion to the game he has shown is incredible.

4. Tony Currie, whose slower game would suit Continental soccer. "Faster" players I think would do well are Kevin Keegan, Gerry Francis, Malcolm Macdonald, Mike Channon and Stan Bowles.

5. If Europeans are more skilful, British stars make up for this with their courage and stamina.

6. Don Revie has taken too long in finding a settled side. England have rarely played two games in succession to a high level. Revie is more of a club manager and England need another leader.

7. England, definitely. The Football League is the most competitive and exciting in Europe.

From Zbigniew Kossek,
Warsaw, Poland

1. English League football enjoys much popularity in Poland and we see regular extracts on TV. Kevin Keegan is the favourite right now.

2. There have been many exciting clashes between British and Polish clubs in Europe. Polish fans still talk about the encounters between Spurs and Gornik when the former were ranked among the world's best teams. However, Manchester United have enjoyed consistently the most support.

3. Bobby Charlton, whose style was a forerunner in everything that is now considered modern.

SEE BRITISH FOOTBALL?

4. WHICH BRITISH PLAYERS DO YOU THINK WOULD MAKE THE BIGGEST IMPACT WITH A EUROPEAN CLUB?

4. Different countries play different systems and English players are excellent within their own climate. However, I would say Clemence, McFarland, Keegan and Channon could turn in excellent performances regardless of who they were playing for.

5. Yes, for the reason that the national teams, hopefully temporarily, are having a bad time. The above mentioned players show there are exceptions, of course.

6. There have been major discrepancies between the national side and clubs. Players appear to be worked too hard by their clubs and possibly there isn't enough encouragement to get into the national side. Nevertheless, in Poland we consider English soccer to be among the world's best and view England as a gold mine of football know-how . . . even though this isn't always put to its best advantage.

7. The easiest question to answer since it is highly unlikely that any dyed-in-the-wool fan would choose anywhere but England.

From Frank Sjöman, Stockholm, Sweden

1. George Best (there's nobody to touch him).

2. Manchester United. After them it's hard to give any order of popularity, although Celtic were admired in their hey-days because of their attacking soccer.

3. Denis Law. There will probably never be a more exciting player to watch in the world. He had it all: imagination, vision, strength, fast reflexes, brilliant soccer mind and a tremendous appetite for the game.

4. I could be mean and say players like Hunter, Smith and Doyle have already made an impact in the wrong places, but I shan't. Many British goalkeepers would be popular on the Continent and given time to adjust, several defenders would make a name for themselves. There's a lack of constructive schemers in your Leagues and most British forwards would fall below standards set in Europe because of their

5. DO YOU THINK BRITISH PLAYERS ARE LESS SKILFUL THAN MOST CONTINENTAL STARS?



Bobby Charlton in action for Manchester United. He is still admired by many fans and soccer experts on the Continent.

weak technical ability.

5. They certainly are! There is no room for developing skills (see question six).

6. British football is ten years behind Europe in development. England are technically and tactically naive and their 150 miles-per-hour style makes intelligent soccer impossible. With this kind of football, both teams give the ball away a lot so each side has its fair share of "booting". When England meet the likes of Holland or Italy, who are coached in possession soccer, they are made to look ridiculous. I am also amazed with the way British players can hack each other down without being punished. No other country in the world would stand for the sort of tackles you see each week in England. Oh yes, there are dirty players abroad, but not on the same scale as the Football League where "organised crime" seems to be an integral part of a team's tactics. British referees are weak and the Press don't help by calling players "hard" when they should really say "filthy". In a climate like this, where brawn has the upper hand, how can creative players be bred? When a "Continental" team such as Q.P.R. is barracked for playing a waiting-game, what

6. WHY DO YOU THINK ENGLAND'S RESULTS HAVE, GENERALLY SPEAKING, BEEN DISAPPOINTING IN RECENT YEARS?

hope is there? England might win the odd game, but until they change their ways they'll never add another thing to the development of football.

7. West Germany of course. Nowhere else can you see such intelligent soccer.

From Mike Brandt, Geneva, Switzerland.

1. Kevin Keegan tops the popularity bill. Clive Woods has a lot of supporters. He's always shown up well whenever we see Ipswich on TV.

2. Surprisingly enough, Spurs . . . possibly because of Martin Chivers who joined FC Servette.

3. I can't choose between Bobby Charlton and Denis Law.

4. Gerry Francis, because his style would fit in with most clubs. He has a great deal of skill with that extra "go" Europeans expect from British stars.

5. Absolutely not! The problem lies in the fact that Europeans use their skill more intelligently. British players lack imagination, that's all.

7. IF YOU COULD SPEND A SEASON IN ANOTHER COUNTRY WATCHING FOOTBALL WHERE WOULD IT BE?

6. Too much concentration on the athletic side of the game and not enough development of skills . . . which would lead to more imagination.

7. England. At club level it's the best to be found. It's impossible to find the atmosphere elsewhere.

SHOOT'S correspondent in Spain, Graham Turner, asked 100 soccer fans at a school near Barcelona for their replies.

1. Kevin Keegan (51), Charlie George (9), George Best (9), Peter Osgood (1), Billy Bremner (1), None (29).

2. Liverpool (41), Leeds (31), Man. Utd. (11), Derby (5), None (12).

3. Bobby Charlton (62), Bobby Moore (37), Sir Stanley Matthews (1).

4. Kevin Keegan (33), Don't Know (67).

5. Yes (43), No (26), Don't Know (31).

6. The general opinion is that England have a shortage of class players and their tactics are poor.

7. Brazil (53), West Germany (21), England (19), Argentina (6), U.S.S.R. (1).



Stan Bowles . . . an English player with European skills.

Everton's MARTIN DOBSON~ one of England's "forgotten men"

AS England went into World Cup action last season in an effort to prove that Britannia could still rule, one player stayed at home... forgotten. Snubbed, if you like, by Don Revie.

But there is not a chip on the shoulders of Everton star Martin Dobson, capped five times for England in 1974 and hailed as the answer to Revie's prayers. Revie obviously thought otherwise.

Dobson's last outing for England was against Czechoslovakia just after he joined Everton from Burnley for a massive £300,000 transfer fee in August, 1974.

Any regrets? "None whatsoever," replies Dobson. "It is not for me to do Don Revie's business. He clearly does what he thinks is best for England and if I am not in his plans there is no need for me to become upset."

"Like any other Englishman, I would love to play for my country. But the manager has a wide choice and it is no reflection on any player if he is not chosen. He is limited to the amount he can select."

"At least, I have the consolation of having

was coach at the time was marvellous. He was so patient, so convinced that I would make the grade. I owe him a lot.

"That is why I enjoy helping the young lads at Everton. There are some fine players there and the future of the club looks bright. We will start winning some honours sooner than some people think."

Dobson started the 1976-77 season with a mission. He wanted to beat his personal scoring tally. He says: "I scored 12 goals for Burnley when I was skipper of the side that won the Second Division in the 1972-73 season. I scored five in my first season at Everton; five in 1975-76."

"I started better last term. The ball was going in for me and I had in the region of half-a-dozen after 16 matches. But I then hit a lean scoring spell. Naturally I was disappointed not to have topped my previous best... very disappointed."



England squad for the match against the Czechs in October, 1974, the last time Martin (second left, front row) was called up.

played for my country. Without being boastful, I think that I can honestly say that I didn't let them down."

Meantime, 28-year-old Dobson turns in star performances for Everton week after week. "I've been playing better than at any time in my career," he says. "It is great being out there helping the fine young players who are breaking through into the first team — and making considerable impact. I like to think that my experience helps them."

Experience! Dobson has plenty of that... the good and the bad. First the bad — given a free transfer by Bolton at 18 after only a year on their books.

Now the good, snapped up by Burnley, converted to midfield and sold for that huge fee to Everton.

Explains Dobson: "Burnley remodelled my play. They dropped me back to centre-half, then alongside the number five and eventually to midfield. Jimmy Adamson, who

What about Everton? Answers Dobson: "It is most important that we start winning some trophies; important for manager Gordon Lee, the club and for the players."

"Last term we proved our potential by reaching the League Cup Final and Semi-Final of the F.A. Cup."

"Success is vital not only to the club. I believe that Don Revie is inclined to watch only the more successful clubs and this might mean that some of our talented young players will be overlooked."

As for himself, Dobson would love to play for England again. But he admits that his chances of so doing are slim and that he would consider a recall a "big extra bonus."

"It's Everton first for me," he says. And he wants them to be first. In everything.



MILIJA ALEKSIC claimed it was like being born again when he moved to Luton from Plymouth in a £20,000 deal last January.

For 'keeper Aleksic had been out in the cold so long he had almost forgotten what it was like to play football.

He fell out with Argyle boss Tony Waiters in a dispute over money and was farmed out to so many clubs he earned the nickname of football's "Loan Ranger".

Aleksic, born in Stafford of a Yugoslavian father, began the season on loan to Oxford, where

would keep me at Portman Road with my big pal Paul Mariner. But, looking back, it's just as well they did not.

"Things have worked out better for me this way. It's far better to play regularly in the first team at Luton than to be stuck in the reserves at Ipswich — great club though they are.

"And all the time at the back of my mind was the thought we could be joining them in the First Division next season. The run we had from January on certainly frightened a few people.

"Luton have had their troubles in the past. But for me they are the

MILIJA ALEKSIC

No longer "The Loan Ranger"

he spent five weeks.

When that ended Ipswich took him for a month and he played in their first team in a friendly at Celtic.

After that it was on to Luton — who borrowed him when regular 'keeper Keith Barber suffered a rib injury.

"I was moving around so much I did not know whether I was coming or going," said a confused Aleksic.

But all that was soon to end. For he made such a big impression at Kenilworth Road that Luton boss Harry Haslam moved smartly to make the transfer permanent.

And Aleksic continued in such good form as Luton strung together some great results to go surging up the Second Division table that Barber could not get his place back when he was fit again.

"I couldn't believe it when Luton said they actually wanted to buy me. For things had gone so sour on me I thought I was doomed to be a stop-gap for clubs in trouble," he claimed.

"There was no pressure on me when I went to Luton. For, as I say, I regarded it as just a temporary move till Barber was fit again.

"But getting the chance in someone's first team was such a novel experience it was like starting the season all over again.

"I had trained hard, but I had not played and I was just bursting for some action. I was keen and fresh and eager to do well.

"I had hoped that Ipswich



greatest club I've ever known and I'm willing to do anything to help them rise again.

"After the favour they have done me, I owe them that."

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WHEN JOHN'S WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN-TWICE

WHILE Bobby Moore, George Best and Rodney Marsh attracted the fans and the headlines at Fulham, a fourth member of the "Craven Cottage TransAtlantic Club" tended to be overshadowed.

Yet the contribution of John Evanson — a free signing from Blackpool — was every bit as important as the better-known trio.

Former Fulham manager Alec Stock who negotiated the deal, rates the 28-year-old midfielder as "just about the best free transfer I can remember."

And while Moore, Best and Marsh had problems of one sort or another, Evanson won many admirers with his consistently high standard of play.

Despite the disappointments of Fulham during 1976/77, Evanson has no reason to feel upset.

He says: "From my point of view, I have never enjoyed a season so much.

"Gates were much larger than I'd been used to and playing the big-name internationals held a special magic for me.

"Okay, we all know it was mainly George who the supporters came to see.

"But the atmosphere lifted all of us. It's a shame we didn't quite manage to give our followers more to cheer about in terms of results."

Evanson joined Fulham the hard way!

Surprisingly given a free transfer by the Blackpool directors — "we were in between managers at the time" — Evanson was naturally worried about his future.

"I'd been a regular at Blackpool for a few years and we'd just bought a new house in the area. The last thing I expected was to be released."

Out of the blue, he had the chance to spend the summer playing for Miami Toros in the sunshine of Florida.

"This seemed an ideal opportunity to forget about the Blackpool business.

"Then, a couple of days before I was due to fly out, I had phone calls from a dozen English clubs.

"Fulham were by far the most attractive, so my whole world had turned upside down again within a few days.

"Playing for Miami was a marvellous experience. When I left for the United States, little did I realise that I'd be lining up with Bobby, George and Rodney very soon."

In fact, it was Evanson's father who told him that Fulham had



snapped up the services of the talented trio.

"American newspapers tend to carry little news of transfers. I think they print the League results, but during the summer there are no games, of course.

"I wrote to my parents regularly and out of the blue dad told me the good news.

"Players often read about new players their club have signed in the papers. I bet not many find out in a letter from their dad, though!"

Evanson is now a star in his own right. Manager Bobby Campbell speaks in glowing terms of "John's terrific contribution in midfield."

Which has helped to soften the blow for Evanson who thought his chance of playing in London had gone.

"There was talk of West Ham signing me when I was still with Oxford.

"Perhaps I built up my hopes too much, but I was disappointed when nothing happened."

They say everything comes to he who waits . . .

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Gordon Lee (below) was in charge of Port Vale, Blackburn and Newcastle before becoming manager of Everton.
2. Northwich Victoria beat Mansfield Town 4-0 in an F.A. Cup Second Round tie last season.
3. Swansea City are known as Rokerites.
4. Gillingham play their home games at Priestfield Stadium.
5. Luton Town have never been known by any other name?



ANSWERS

1. True. 2. False - Northwich beat Peterborough. 3. False - they are known as Swans. Sunderland are Rokerites. 4. True. 5. True.

TRANSFERS

The players listed were transferred during January, 1977. Their former clubs are in brackets . . . can you name the sides they joined?

1. Milija Aleksic (Plymouth)
2. Terry Poole (Huddersfield)
3. Jack Howarth (Aldershot)
4. Dennis Leman (Man. City)
5. Gordon Staniforth (Hull)

ANSWERS

1. Luton Town. 2. Bolton Wanderers. 3. Bournemouth. 4. Sheffield Wednesday. 5. York.

SCORE A 100 SOCCER CENTURY

Tackle this quiz section by section, checking your answers with those printed upside down beneath each section. Award yourself four points for each correct answer. Then, add up your scores and see how close you are to the maximum total of 100.

SCOTTISH GROUNDS

Which Scottish clubs would you be visiting if you stood on the following terraces?

1. Boghead Park
2. Somerset Park
3. Fir Park
4. Cappielow Park (below)
5. Tynecastle Park

ANSWERS

1. Dumbarton. 2. Ayr United. 3. Motherwell. 4. Morton. 5. Hearts.



PICTURE PUZZLE

Study the action photograph and see if you can answer the following questions.

1. Can you identify the two players in action?
2. And their clubs?
3. Which of them is a full cap?
4. Where was the game played?
5. What was the final result?

ANSWERS

1. Willie Johnston (stripes) and Billy Jennings. 2. West Brom and West Ham. 3. Willie Johnston for Scotland. 4. Upton Park, West Ham. 5. 0-0.

LEAGUE CUP

1. Everton and Aston Villa battled through to the Final last season. Can you name the two clubs they knocked out in the Semis?
2. Liverpool were beaten in the First, Second or Third Round by West Brom?
3. Did Albion triumph in the first game or after a replay?
4. What was so significant about the First Round games?
5. Spurs were sensationally knocked out of the Third Round by which Third Division club? (action below)



ANSWERS

1. Everton beat Bolton and Aston Villa eliminated Q.P.R. 2. Second. 3. After a replay. 4. The games were played on a home-and-away aggregate basis. 5. Wrexham.

CHECK YOUR RATING

88-100 . . . Excellent.
80-84 . . . Very Good.
68-76 . . . Good. 52-64 . . . Average. Under 48 . . . Try again in SHOOT.

YOUR OVERALL TOTAL



West Ham's
BRYAN
"POP" ROBSON
explains:

THE PROBLEMS OF BEING A STRIKER

LAST SEASON nearly seven million pounds was spent by Football League clubs in soccer's inflationary transfer market.

The greater part of that fantastic total, especially when so many clubs are pleading poverty, went on strikers.

Stars such as Malcolm Macdonald, Duncan McKenzie, Brian Kidd and Bryan "Pop" Robson, who returned to West Ham from Sunderland for £80,000 last October.

His first spell at Upton Park, from February, 1971 to July, 1974 was a successful one, bringing him a goal tally of 47 in 120 League matches.

Last season, following his move, Bryan fought as hard as anyone at West Ham to steer clear of relegation. He also battled against the problem which hits every striker at some time or other . . . being off-target.

"This is the toughest part of a striker's job," said Bryan, "when the goals dry up.

"The harder you try, the more difficult it becomes to score. When that happens you've got to have faith in your own ability and keep plugging away.

"You try not to worry about it, but it does get to you. So do the fans who come to expect a goal-a-game."

It's no secret that goals are harder to come by in football today, especially in the First Division.

"Agreed," said Bryan. "The biggest drawback for strikers at present is the defensive attitudes of so many clubs in the League.

"Tactics are mainly designed to stop goals rather than score them, so a striker's chances are very limited compared to four or five years ago.

"These days any forward scoring 20 League goals or more in a season is doing very well."

Is it harder scoring goals in the First Division?

"People regard the First as being less physical than the Second," Bryan told SHOOT. "In some respects that's true.

"When I was with Sunderland in the Second I had pieces kicked out of me every week.

"First Division defenders don't mess about, either, but they are generally more skilful and sharper in the tackle. They also close you down that much quicker and aren't so crude in their



Bryan goes hunting for goals against Ipswich at Upton Park.

methods.

"Another reason strikers aren't so successful these days is the standard of our goalkeepers."

During a fine career, Bryan has been top scorer for all three clubs he's played for . . . Newcastle, Sunderland and West Ham.

In 1972-73 he totalled 28 League goals for The Hammers and was widely tipped for England honours. Did he find that record a hindrance the following season? Did it put extra pressure on him?

"Yes, it did," said Bryan, "but it's the type of pressure I like.

"You've set a standard and you strive to beat it. You've got to have targets to aim for in life . . . always try to better yourself and raise your level of play."

Leading goalscorers are often targets themselves . . . of other clubs. Can transfer gossip bring additional problems to a striker?

"Sometimes it's flattering to read in

the Press that this or that club are interested in you and willing to pay a vast fortune for your services.

"Other times it is unsettling, particularly if you are going through a sticky period personally or your club is in relegation trouble.

"You ask to see your manager to try and discover if there is any truth in the rumours. If you are unhappy, a change of club with the financial benefits such a move would bring is tempting and it's on your mind all the time."

What of the future for Bryan Robson?

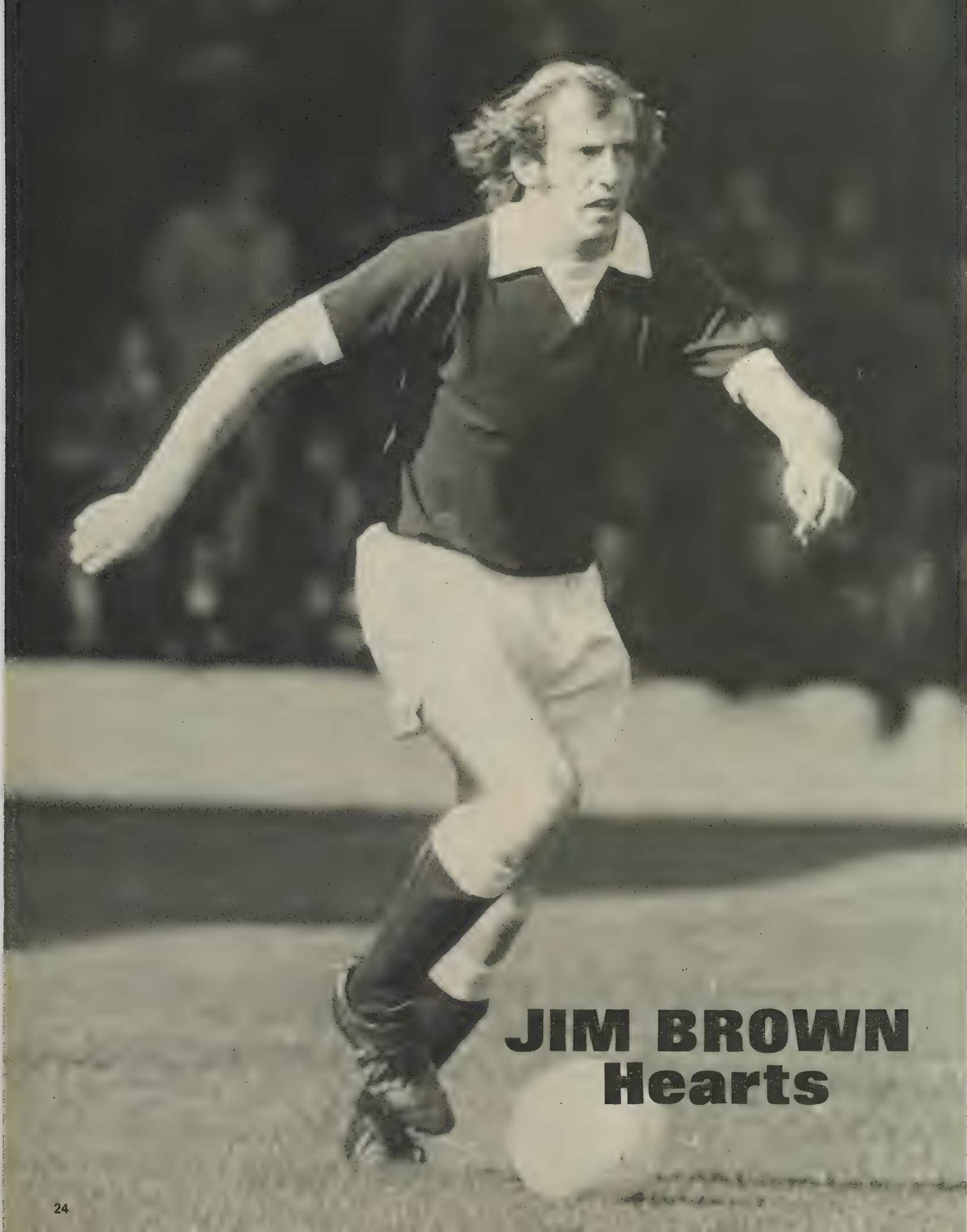
"To keep on scoring goals for West Ham and help them get back among the honours.

"I missed out on their F.A. Cup Final and European Cup-Winners' Cup Final appearances by going back to the North-East. I'm a bit choked about that.


"I realise I'm over 30, but I'm not finished yet. If anything, I'm faster now than I was at 20.

"Half the Italian national side are around that age. And Bobby Moore, Alex Stepney, Ian Callaghan and Johnny Giles haven't done so badly, have they?

"Rest assured I aim to be around for a good few years yet!"



JIM BROWN
Hearts



Motherwell's Marinello could have been a CELTIC STAR

SOCCER held its breath in expectancy when Peter Marinello moved South to Arsenal on a £100,000 transfer from Hibs. It was virtually impossible to pick up a newspaper and not see a photograph or a story about the winger they called "The New George Best."

It looked as though Marinello was bound for stardom. He was given the superstar treatment and even the one and only George Best admitted he liked the Scot's style.

Marinello couldn't have got off to a better start on a personal basis. His debut was in front of over 50,000 fans at Old Trafford against Manchester United and he showed the variety of his subtle skills in one wonderful moment when he raced into the rival defence, bemused Pat Crerand, jinked one way, then another and left goalkeeper Alex Stepney helpless with a superbly-struck effort.

United hit back to win 2-1, but the newspapers were full of praise for Marinello's piece of soccer wizardry. Then things started to go wrong. Marinello says: "Arsenal tried to change my style. They wanted me to play on the right-wing and go straight for the line and hit over centres for John Radford."

"I did this with Hibs, of course, but I was also given the opportunity to come inside, too. One game that springs to mind was against Rangers at Ibrox where we won 3-1 and I scored two goals from the centre-forward position."

When Arsenal varied their tactics and played with only one winger — George Armstrong — Marinello was out. He came back briefly and had a chance of glory in a European tie against the mighty Ajax at Highbury.

Arsenal were a goal down from the



Above: Peter in action for Motherwell. Top of page: Scoring on his debut for Arsenal at Manchester United.

first-leg and Marinello had a superb chance to hit the equaliser at Highbury, but from close range he hit his shot against goalkeeper Heinz Stuy and it rebounded to safety.

That was Arsenal's best chance of the evening and they tumbled out of the trophy when Marinello's fellow-Scot George Graham unfortunately nodded a back-pass away from goalkeeper Bob Wilson into his own net.

Shortly afterwards Marinello was on his way. Where his first transfer made front page news, his second was mentioned only in passing. He left Arsenal for Portsmouth with around £55,000 being taken off the fee the Highbury side had given to Hibs.

When Portsmouth hit financial difficulties manager Ian St. John was forced to sell his talented winger and Motherwell — St. John's former club — moved in with a £35,000 bid and Marinello was on the move.

"Manager Willie McLean really impressed me in the transfer talks," says Marinello. "He struck me as being ambitious and knowledgeable and I was happy to sign for Motherwell."

"We've some of the best players in Scotland at Fir Park and Mr. McLean stresses to us that he always wants us to entertain."

Ironically, Marinello made his debut for Motherwell against Hibs at Easter Road! Again the fleet-footed flanker didn't celebrate with a victory — this time a superb headed goal from Pat Stanton did the damage. And Marinello may have been a team-mate of Stanton at Celtic today!

When Marinello was at Portsmouth Ian St. John was interested in taking Celtic's runaway star George Connelly to Fratton Park. At the time Connelly wasn't interested in returning to the pressures of soccer, but if he had taken the opportunity it was odds-on that it would be a straight swap deal with Marinello going to Parkhead.

Yes, Marinello, only 26, has seen a fair amount of action in his young soccer life. However, he is aiming to be around for a long time yet and grab the headlines once again with his undoubted talents.

THREE cheers for the men who deserve the award of Soccer's "long service medal". How's this for a team of "veterans"?

Peter Bonetti, Keith Newton, John Trollope, Billy Bremner, Martin Peters, Norman Hunter, Terry Paine, Mike Summerbee, Kevin Hector, Johnny Giles, Ian Callaghan. Substitutes: Peter Grummitt, Tony Dunne, Alan Oakes, and Arfon Griffiths.

These are the game's true professionals, men who have given the best years of their lives to soccer and despite their long years in the top class refuse to discard their studded shoes for carpet slippers.

545 League appearances before he left Hammers for Fulham with whom he added more than another 100 games to his magnificent performances.

Sadly 1976-77 was Bobby's last season as a player.

So it was for another soccer great Frank McLintock who made his debut in 1959 with Leicester City.

Alan Oakes also made his first appearance that year, for Manchester City.

What a tremendous inspiration and example Frank and Alan have been to their younger colleagues.

The three clubs whose colours Frank has worn during the 20 years since he joined

home in July, 1976 to join Chester had taken Manchester City's League appearances record to 565, a magnificent tribute to a very fine player.

In December, 1959 a tiny red-headed Scot signed pro forms for Leeds United and a few months later stepped up for his first team debut.

He became one of the outstanding players in the country and in later years led Leeds to a host of honours.

No need to ask if you have guessed his name — Billy Bremner, of course. The little midfield dynamo, who also captained his country, went on to complete 582 appearances with United before he moved on to Hull City to pass

his 600 games milestone.

The 1959-60 season saw the League baptism of several other untried youngsters who were destined for many years in the soccer headlines.

Among them were two winners — Mike Summerbee with Swindon Town and Ian Callaghan with Liverpool, where he was born and reared in local schools teams.

Both are still making their mark in the big time. Mike Summerbee played his 600th. League game in February, 1976 with Burnley whom he joined after 357 first team appearances with Manchester City following his 218 match spell with his first club Swindon.

THE LEAGUE'S LONG-SERVERS

Their value to the game is beyond estimation for not only are these ageless stars holding their own in the ever increasing stress of modern League and Cup football, their experience is proving invaluable to the many younger players who continue to enter the stage.

They set a glittering example of dedication and enthusiasm which the march of time cannot dim.

Terry Paine is the longest service player in the League. He joined Southampton in 1956, played his first League game in 1957 and remained with Saints for 17 years, completing a club record of 713 League appearances, before moving on to Hereford.

It was the start of a new career for the former England winger and in October, 1975 he beat the all-time League record of 764 appearances, set up by Jimmy Dickinson during his long and honoured years with Portsmouth. Terry has now put the 800 games milestone well behind him and he isn't finished yet.

West Ham introduced a new "unknown" to their League side in September, 1958 and eight years later he led England to victory in the World Cup Final.

Yes, of course, it was Bobby Moore. He reached a total of

Leicester as a Glasgow youth can look back with pride on their associations with the man who surely deserves the title of "Supernac".

In 1972 he became the first post-War player to appear in SIX Wembley F.A. and League Cup Finals, two with Leicester and four with Arsenal, although only once was he on the winning side. That was in 1971 when he led The Gunners to the League and Cup double.

In June, 1973, after 314 League games for Arsenal, he moved to Queen's Park Rangers.

Even his best friends and admirers must have felt some regret when Frank at 37, announced the end of a magnificent career... a total of almost 650 League games.

The name of Alan Oakes first appeared on Manchester City's League team list in November, 1959 and from then until the end of the 1975-76 season was seldom missing from City's senior squad.

The tall, fair-haired "Cheshire lad", quiet spoken and often unobtrusive on the field, was one of the most loyal and devoted players ever to wear City's light blue shirt.

During his years at Maine Road he won a host of medals and before he moved back



Frank McLintock gave Leicester, Arsenal and Q.P.R. very valuable service. His fabulous career spanned nearly 650 League matches.

Now he is continuing his fabulous career with Blackpool. But even Mike is unlikely to continue long enough to beat the fantastic match figures of Ian Callaghan.

It is difficult to believe that Ian was a very valued member of Liverpool's Second Division Championship side way back in the 1961-62 season, but it's true.

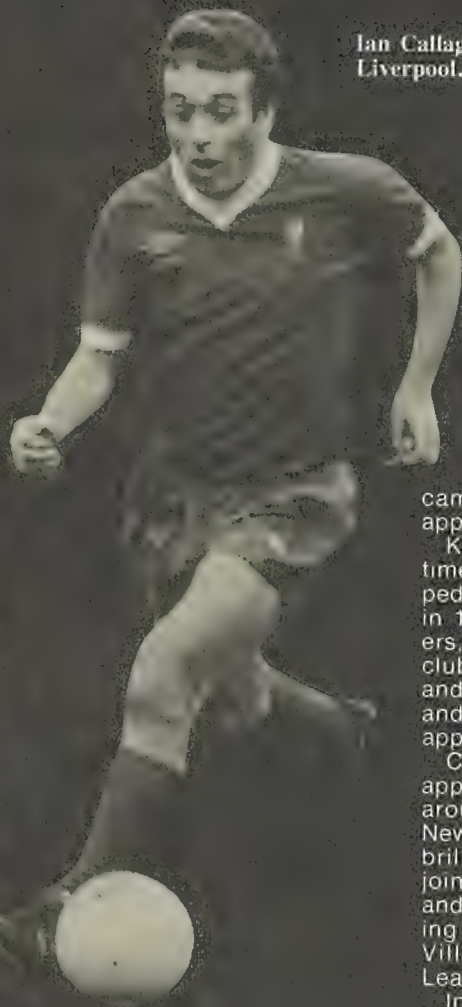
During the memorable years that have followed, the quiet, unobtrusive lad from Liverpool, respected and admired by everyone connected with the game has helped the Anfield Reds to all the top honours and earned himself a place in Soccer's Hall of Fame.

On February 19th, this year Callaghan made his 800th. appearance for the club in League and various Cup competitions (nearly 650 in Football League games), a club record — and a remarkable one, too.

During the past season Ian Callaghan has been playing as well, if not better, than throughout all his long years at Anfield — and there's no reason why he should not be delighting us for even another 100 appearances. Go to it, Ian — and the best of luck!

In 1960 and 1961 we saw the baptism to League football of Peter Bonetti, who has spent all his first-class career — to

Ian Callaghan, still going strong for Liverpool.



date, that is — with Chelsea. John Trollope, that dedicated defender who has been a great servant to Swindon Town for 16 seasons and has topped 700 League games for the club he joined as a boy and whose appearances record he now holds; Tony Dunne (debut 1961), many times Eire international, spent the first 12 years of his League life with Manchester United before joining Bolton Wanderers with whom, last season, he

came close to his 550th appearance in the League.

Keith Newton, capped 27 times for England, also stepped into the League limelight in 1961 with Blackburn Rovers, played 307 games for that club before moving to Everton and more recently to Burnley and has taken his total of appearances to over 550.

Charlie Aitken made his first appearance for Aston Villa at around the same time as Keith Newton and what a career this brilliant defender had. He joined Villa as a youth in 1959 and remained for 18 years during which time he set a new Villa club record of 560 League appearances.

In 1959 Wrexham gave a wee local lad named Arfon Griffiths a chance to prove himself in top class football — and how well he has done it.

He stepped up into the League team in 1960 and quickly made a big impression for such a little chap, scoring the winning goal against Cardiff City in the Welsh Cup Final.

The big clubs were soon on his track and in 1961 he was snapped up by Arsenal. But it wasn't long before Arfon became homesick and

returned to Wrexham, where he has remained ever since and has set up an almost unbeatable record club appearances total of over 550 League games.

A remarkable little fellow and a magnificent servant to Wrexham and to Wales, for he is still winning caps after 17 years of active Soccer service.

So we could continue our saga of Soccer's long-service "veterans". Alan Durban made his League debut in 1960 with Cardiff City, went on to Derby County with whom he appeared in 346 League games before taking over the player-managership of Shrewsbury, where he has taken his career games total to

well over 500.

Kevin Hector, one of Alan's colleagues at Derby, entered League football with Bradford in 1962, and is now approaching his 600th League game, nearly 450 of them with Derby.

George Armstrong can also look back on a fabulous career with Arsenal, for whom he signed as pro. in 1961.

Fifteen years later he set a new Arsenal appearances record of 453 League games, since when he has taken his total to nearer 500.

We mustn't forget another wonderful "grand old man", another little 'un, too, who has thrilled fans all over Britain and Europe during the past 17 years.

He is Johnny Giles, wee Irishman, who began with Manchester United, went on to achieve the highest honours with Leeds United and Eire, before taking up the double responsibility of player-manager at West Bromwich Albion.



Billy Bremner, one of the main inspirations at Leeds for over a decade. Now he's serving Hull City.

Proud Place

Although he has resigned his post at The Hawthorns, John still hopes to continue playing for, and managing, Eire.

With a total of nearly 550 League games for his three clubs, plus at least another 50 appearances in Cup matches, Johnny G. has earned a proud place among the game's greatest, for he has given everything to football.

But then that is true of all the men who appear in our list of players with over 500 League appearances to date.

There is nothing wrong with a sport that produces so many wonderful, dedicated players to whom soccer is the joy of their lives.

1976-77 PLAYERS WITH OVER 500 LEAGUE GAMES

Over 800 Terry Paine (Southampton and Hereford)

Over 700 John Trollope (Swindon)

Over 650 Bobby Moore (West Ham and Fulham)

Over 600 Billy Bremner (Leeds and Hull)

Alan Oakes (Manchester C. and Chester)

Ian Callaghan (Liverpool)

Frank McLintock (Leicester, Arsenal and Q.P.R.)

Arfon Griffiths (Wrexham and Arsenal)

Mike Summerbee (Swindon, Man. C, Burnley, Blackpool)

Kevin Hector (Bradford and Derby Co.)

Over 550 Peter Bonetti (Chelsea)

Kevin Keelan (Villa, Wrexham, Norwich)

Peter Grummitt (Nottm. F., Sheff. Wed., Brighton)

Jim Montgomery (Sunderland)

Alex Stepney (Millwall, Chelsea, Man. U.)

Peter Downsbrough (Halifax, Swindon, Brighton on loan, Bradford C.)

Keith Newton (Blackburn, Everton, Burnley)

Graham Cross (Leicester C., Chesterfield on loan and Brighton)

Norman Hunter (Leeds and Bristol C.)

Peter Thompson (Carlisle, Liverpool, Bolton)

Peter Morris (Mansfield, Ipswich, Norwich)

Charlie Aitken (Aston Villa)

Over 500 Pat Jennings (Watford and Spurs)

Johnny Giles (Man. U., Leeds U., West Bromwich A.)

Tony Dunne (Manchester U. and Bolton)

Warwick Rimmer (Bolton and Crewe)

Alan Durban (Cardiff, Derby, Shrewsbury)

Don Rogers (Swindon, C. Palace, Q.P.R.)

Martin Peters (West Ham, Spurs, Norwich C.)

Alan Ball (Blackpool, Everton, Arsenal, Soton)

Ron Harris (Chelsea)

David Wagstaffe (Manchester C., Wolves, Blackburn)

Len Badger (Sheffield U., Chesterfield)

Wyn Davies (7 clubs)

'I WAS A UNITED FAN~ BUT ONLY TO WATCH GEORGE BEST'

says Man. City's young star GARY OWEN

DURING a season when England's football almost hit near rock-bottom, it was encouraging to see the number of talented youngsters who established themselves in the First Division.

Players such as Frank Stapleton (Arsenal), Glenn Hoddle (Spurs), John Deehan (Aston Villa) and Tony Macken (Derby County) to name a few who emerged to brighten the dismal scene.

The pick of the crop must have been Manchester City's young midfield starlet

Gary Owen.

He had an outstanding season for the Maine Road club and gained rave reports in the Press almost every game with his tremendous vision, pace and skill. But as a kid did he model himself on any player in the Football League?

"One player I idolised and still do is George Best," says Gary. "I went along to Old Trafford as often as possible and marvelled at his brilliant skill.

"I suppose in those early days I was a United fan. Although I must admit if Best

hadn't played for them I would not have gone to the other side of Manchester."

After making four League appearances for City during 1975-76, Owen established himself as a vital cog in the City midfield machinery last season.

Colin Bell's enforced lay-off through injury enabled young Gary to push for a regular spot in the first-team. And when manager Tony Book put him into the senior side he didn't let anyone down.

"I was determined to prove to everyone I was worth my chance. With Colin Bell out of the side, I had to show that when he returned I was still playing well enough to merit a place."

In the past City had been a big disappointment in their League form but 1976-77 season saw them at last strike consistency away from Maine Road.

"I believe the big difference was that Bill Taylor joined us from Fulham early last season," says Gary. "He made us more professional. He worked hard on our game and made us a better outfit."

Another major factor in City's favour has been the emergence of some very promising youngsters.

"Yes, the youth players are very well looked after at Maine Road," says the St. Helens-born midfielder.

"Youngsters like Ged Keegan, Paul Power and Peter Barnes and myself have come through the ranks here.

"We also have a fine youth side at present and it says a lot for the policies at Manchester City when they can continually develop young players into promising First Division stars."

It certainly paints a healthy picture for Tony Book's men as they get ready to make another determined assault on the honours in the new season.

And as young Gary Owen attempts to achieve the incredible consistency he found last term, SHOOT asked him who had been the biggest influence on his career.

"Definitely my father, Alf. Although he was a Rugby League star with Widnes he never discouraged me from playing football. He watches every City match and will always tell me, in no uncertain manner, if I have had a bad game. And praise me if I played well."





Jeremy (centre) with father Mel (left) and uncle John.

'I WANT TO PLAY IN THE FIRST DIVISION- WITH SWANSEA' says Jeremy Charles

JEREMY Charles had an added advantage over most youngsters who dreamed of a professional career in football. He has a famous soccer father and an equally famous uncle. Their names? Mel and John Charles.

Did the two former Wales international brothers put any pressure on young Jeremy to become a professional footballer?

"Not at all," he says. "Right from the moment I took an interest in football — when I was about eight — they haven't interfered."

"I am not saying they didn't help me because they did. They certainly encouraged me in my early days. But once I developed my own skill I was left to fend for myself."

His talent certainly shone through last season when in his first term in League football he regularly found the net.

"Yes, I was very pleased with my form," says the Welsh youth cap. "Particularly as I only signed professional forms in July, 1976."

"I was selected as substitute for a First Round first-leg Foot-

ball League Cup-tie against Newport.

Jeremy's career certainly started in fine style when he helped his club gain a 4-1 lead.

Says Charles: "Manager Harry Griffiths put me on with about 20 minutes remaining and the score was 1-1."

"With almost my first touch of the ball, I scored! I could hardly believe it."

"Then to make it a dream debut for me, I scored a second and City's fourth with about two minutes of the game left."

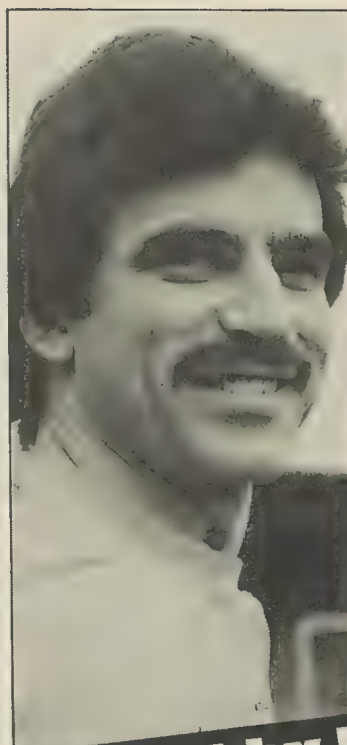
Ambitions

After just one season in the Football League has the latest player from the famous Charles family any burning ambitions?

"At the moment I just want to establish myself in the Swansea City first team," says the youngster. "I've already gained youth caps for Wales so the next obvious step to make is to represent my country at a higher level."

"My one big ambition is to play in the First Division ... with, I hope, Swansea."

Time is certainly on the side of 17-year-old Jeremy Charles.



**Freed by Blackpool,
Priceless to Cardiff-
that's**

TONY EVANS

AT this moment, dozens of players will be wondering where they go next to earn a living. They are the men who have been called into the manager's office and told: "Sorry, son, you're on the list as a free transfer."

In effect, the sack ... with the label of "Not good enough".

"It's a bad, bad moment," agrees Tony Evans who found himself in that position exactly two years ago. For Tony, it was worst than most.

"My Dad and Mum are Liverpool fanatics. How do you go home and tell a Merseyside father that his son will never make a footballer?"

Blackpool had decided that he would not make the grade as a striker: Cardiff City manager Jimmy Andrews — acting on a strong recommendation from a Northern scout — thought otherwise. He gave Evans a second chance.

Now the busiest goalkeeper that Welsh football has known since John Toshack is a transformed player.

Cardiff chairman Stefan Terlezki was asked whether there was a price tag on the goal scoring genius of Evans.

"Certainly there is a tag around Tony's neck," he agreed carefully.

"It says 'Priceless'."

That sums up perfectly the fairy tale switch in the once shattered, now-triumphant career of Evans.

"To the rest of football, you're down and out. A discard. That is the moment when, above all, you believe in yourself more fiercely than ever."

"You hope and pray for another club: you never let go of your confidence; you don't shoot off and look for a job you don't want in a career that doesn't interest you. Just grit your teeth and stay in there fighting!"

"Remember, it doesn't follow that because one manager didn't reckon you could play, the other 91 in the Football League will feel the same."

In the case of 22-year-old Tony, his prayers were answered. Cardiff, newly relegated from the Second Division, signed him. What was his attitude then?

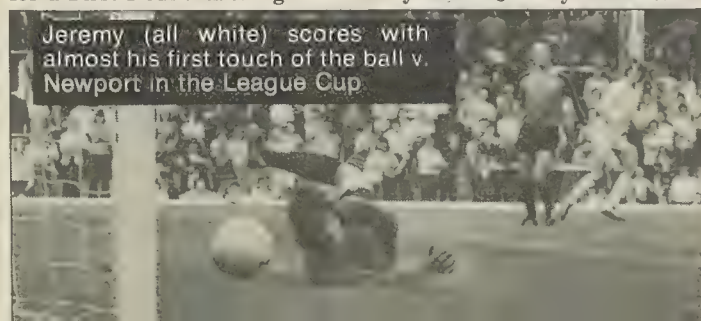
"I reckoned that I'd worked hard at Blackpool. I know that I was going to work twice as hard at

Cardiff. When you have a second chance like that, you dedicate every waking hour for say, a year to the game. By the end of that time, you'll know the answer yourself ... one way or the other."

Tony came off the ropes so fast that by the end of his first season at Cardiff, he had scored 29 first team goals to take the premier Welsh club straight back to the Second Division and into European football — by regaining the Welsh Cup from Wrexham to earn City their traditional place in the Cup-winners' Cup.

He has since conquered the Second Division with a ruthless, more professional confidence and says: "I look back to that first season with Cardiff and realise that I succeeded with enthusiasm forming 90 per cent of my game. Now I'm a more complete professional."

"I'm learning to think more about the game; developing a quicker 'reading' of tactical situations and wider vision; linking experience to that enthusiasm that kept me 'alive' in football. I love every moment of what I'm doing. All the more so because I know what it's like at the bottom of the pit."



Jeremy (all white) scores with almost his first touch of the ball v. Newport in the League Cup.

Malcolm Macdonald on the attack during his League debut for Arsenal v. Bristol City at Highbury. Looking every inch a £330,000 striker.



Forward or defender, Englishman, Scotsman or Irishman, these players all have one thing in common . . . they can justifiably be called . . .

SOCCER'S



Left: Gordon McQueen, star stopper for Leeds and Scotland. Right: Newcastle 'keeper Mike Mahoney makes a brave save from Man. United's Sammy McIlroy. Far right: Southampton's Ted MacDougall shows his power in the air.



Far left: The silky skills of Duncan McKenzie may not suit all managers, but the majority of fans love to see him on the ball. Left: Derby and England centre-half Roy McFarland looking very alert and lethal — to opposing forwards.



SUPERMACS



Alan Gowling — or should it be Alan Goal-ling? — gets a hug from his Newcastle United captain Geoff Nulty (number six) after scoring against Middlesbrough. Ayresome Park defender Stuart Boam is not impressed!



Whistle while you smirk



"Okay — okay — I'll say it —
Please will you give me your name?"



"Never have I seen such a biased ref"



"No! It's not a booking for
a LATE tackle. I'm booking
you for an early tackle. We
haven't kicked-off yet"



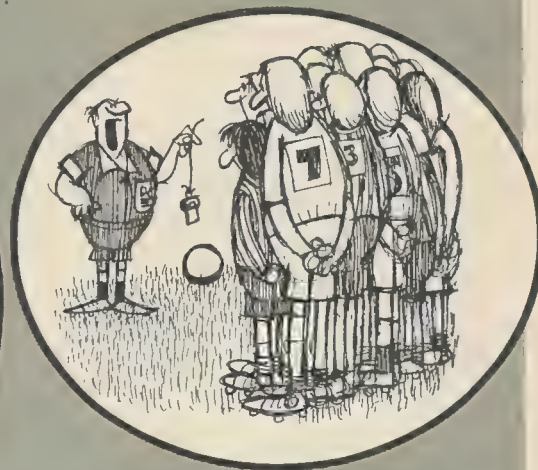
"Ref! I would like to
consult your linesman about
that offside decision"



"Heh! heh! heh! Very funny!
Now what's your real name?"



"My word — aren't you lucky
— my pen isn't working"



"Come on, who's got it? Who's got me pea?"

THE QUESTION PUZZLING SOCCER~ WHY HAVEN'T LEICESTER FOUND SUCCESS?



On their day Leicester (dark shirts v. Man. City) are more than a match for any side. Here Blockley (number five), Woollett and Whitworth join forces to halt this City attack. (Right) Midfield star Jon Sammels brings good news for City fans.

ONE of the biggest mysteries of the past five years must be the failure of Leicester City to get their hands on a major trophy.

They made a fearsome reputation for themselves as F.A. Cup fighters in the 1960's — going to Wembley three times in nine years.

Since those heady years — nothing. Apart from an appearance in the Semi-Final in 1974, they were beaten by Liverpool, Leicester have been nowhere in the race for honours.

Yet over the past five years they have probably had the strongest pool of players in their history.

Ex-boss Jimmy Bloomfield, who replaced Frank O'Farrell as manager in the summer of 1971 completely transformed the club, going for players of unquestionable skill and style.

Bloomfield, a believer in open, attacking football made sure he surrounded himself with people who play the game his way — like Keith Weller, Jon Sammels, Alan Birchenall, Frank Worthington, DennisJeff Blockley, Steve Earle, Steve Kember and Brian Alderson.

Yet this was enough to enable Leicester to establish themselves as serious contenders for honours. They have often promised great things — but their fans are still waiting for them to produce the goods.

Why is it? How can a team with so much natural ability fail to impose themselves on a League that contains many sides with vastly inferior players.

Perhaps their insistence on concentrating only on the good things in the game is partly responsible.

Bloomfield is a product of the famous West Ham soccer academy. And Hammers — renowned throughout the game for the quality of their football — are another side who have seldom collected the silverware their approach deserves.

It is quite likely Leicester would have made a bigger impact if they had sprinkled a few hard men throughout their team — players more concerned with stopping the opposition from playing than displaying their own skills.

Perhaps that's one reason why Bloomfield, who has definite beliefs on the way the game should be played and will not be swayed from them, resigned at the end of the season.

Leicester's failure to put a trophy on their sideboard is as puzzling to the players as it is to their fans.

Even Jon Sammels was struggling to put his finger on it when we asked him if he could come up with a reason.

Sammels, who became Bloomfield's first buy when he moved to Filbert Street from Arsenal six years ago in a £100,000 deal, said: "I honestly can't point to one

reason why we have failed to win anything.

"At the start of every season we really fancy our chances of winning something. And with good reason — for we have players here as good as any in the country.

"On our day we are a match for anybody, yet all too often we don't produce the goods when expected. So I suppose the thing we are lacking is consistency.

"Teams that win titles are the ones that put their game together week in and week out. In all kinds of weather, on all types of pitches.

"It's easy to raise your game at great stadiums like Anfield or Old Trafford.



What you must also do is turn it on at bleak little grounds with little atmosphere.

"I'm not saying that is the reason — but it's the only logical one I can think of. One thing is certain — we know the Leicester public have waited a long time for success and we are determined to bring it to them".

That's good news for the Filbert Street fans and as a magazine that cares passionately about the image of football we hope Leicester under their new manager the evergreen Frank McLintock, get among the honours soon.

But even if they don't we can assure them the average fan is still full of admiration for the way they go about things.

Whatever happens to them in the future they can be satisfied they are making a significant contribution to our football.

I HAVE been in this game for a long time now and obviously I have seen many changes. Some I have welcomed, but there have been some ideas which have baffled me.

One change I was absolutely delighted to see being introduced was substitutes. It never appeared to be very fair that a team could lose a player in the first minute with a serious injury and have to play 89 minutes a man short.

I wonder why it took the authorities such a long time to change the rules. Mind you, there were times when a team reduced to ten men really shocked their rivals.

I remember watching Hearts on the television one night. I'm sorry I can't remember their opponents, but the Tynecastle side were losing 2-1 until a Hearts player went off injured and couldn't return. And what happened? You've guessed! Hearts rallied round and won 3-2!

That can often happen. Players start

Tartan Talk JOHN GREIG



'The Soccer change that's proved a winner'



Aberdeen goalkeeper Bobby Clark would make a fair outfield player.

pulling out everything to make up for the lost player and suddenly the other team is deep in trouble with every player doing the work of two men.

And talking about substitutes, people often ask me whether or not I think it is fair that there is not a substitute 'keeper as well as the other two outfield substitutes. That's quite a difficult question.

I suppose a team could name a goal-keeper as one of their two substitutes, (they still only allow one in the English League), but they would be in a bit of trouble if they had to put him on in an outfield role.

Aberdeen and Manchester City would be okay in this field. They could list Bobby Clark and Keith MacRae either to start the game or to stand by. Clark and MacRae, of course, have outfield experience and, in fact, both have done good jobs for The Dons and Motherwell, Keith's former club, when they have moved out of goal.

Goalkeeping, however, is a specialised position and I don't know whether or not a 'keeper would prefer to be listed as a substitute each week and actually get no match practice!

Another question I am often asked is: Do I think tactics are ruling the game and spoiling it? Well, obviously you must have tactics to a certain extent. There aren't many successful teams these days who go out and play it off the cuff.

But it is a bit ridiculous when youngsters, say around the eight or nine mark, are being brought up at school talking about "total football" and things like

that. I believe they should be allowed to express their natural talents at that age.

Scottish soccer has always been able to produce personalities such as Denis Law, Jim Baxter, Willie Henderson, Jimmy Johnstone and a host of others, but I sometimes wonder if other youngsters with the same sort of talent aren't being allowed to develop properly.

And what about these people who continually want to change the Laws? Some of them come up with weird and wonderful suggestions, don't they? The one I think is absurd is to make the goals bigger — and then there will be more goals scored. That's just daft. The 'keeper's job is hard enough as it is. Can you imagine some scorelines . . . 10-10 draws and so on. It would be ridiculous.

The offside Laws are messed around a bit, too. At the moment it gives the advantage to defenders, but if it is worked properly by the attacking team it can be a very profitable weapon.

Anyway, I better put the typewriter away now and let you get on with the rest of your summer reading. I'll see you every fortnight in SHOOT.

Cheers . . .

NORWICH CITY'S LONDONERS

OLD habits die hard and in the case of Norwich City manager John Bond this is certainly the case.

As manager of the Carrow Road club, Bond has built a team poised to rival the "big boys" . . . just as near-neighbours Ipswich Town have.

And if Norwich Do make a really big impact in Division One, they will have to thank their London stars.

Bond — an outstanding full-back for West Ham during his playing days — has made four significant acquisitions from London clubs and these stars will provide the nucleus of next season's team.

Of course, Norwich's London Connection is not just on the playing side.

Coach Ken Brown was, like Bond, with West Ham from 1951 until 1968 when he moved on to Torquay.

After a season at Hereford United, he linked up again with his former Upton Park team-mate Bond to form a most effective partnership.

Bond's first "big return" was to Tottenham where former England star Martin Peters was stuck in a rut.

The 33-year-old City skipper says now: "John Bond gave me a new challenge, which I needed.

"Moving away from London was the best thing I ever did. Even when my playing days are over, I shan't rush back to the capital."

Bond went back to White Hart Lane last season to snap up winger Jimmy Neighbour for a bargain £80,000.

Neighbour, 25, says: "I didn't really want to leave Spurs. I'd been there since I was 12 and I couldn't imagine myself settling anywhere else.

"But John Bond's style suits me. I can concentrate more on going forward rather than worrying all the time whether I'm in the right position to tackle back if the opposition break."

Norwich's biggest sensation last term was Viv Busby. The 27-year-old former Fulham striker made such an immediate impact at Carrow Road that fans were asking how on earth Fulham could have let him go.

Busby explains: "The supporters at Craven Cottage never accepted me entirely.

"I could feel them getting at me if I wasn't scoring.

"The Norwich fans helped me settle in quickly. Even though I took over from Ted MacDougall, they didn't start silly comparisons.

"I'll probably not score as many goals

as Ted, but my all-round contribution may be more and the supporters seem to realise this."

Mind you, the way Busby started his Norwich career, averaging a goal-a-game for quite a while, makes us argue with his personal assessment!

Early last season Bond bought Londoner John Ryan from Luton Town. His no-nonsense full-back play stiffened The Canaries' back-four.

Bond's unluckiest buy was Graham Paddon, the West Ham midfielder.

The blond schemer made a welcome return to the club where he first made his name.

Yet no sooner had he put on a yellow-and-green jersey again than he had the misfortune to break a leg.

Paddon, 27, says: "I'd been lucky with injuries. No more than the usual strains and aches.

"This has made up for lost time. I was

Viv Busby (right) made an instant impact after his move from Fulham. Skipper Martin Peters (below) shows he's lost none of his skill against Newcastle last term.



choked when it happened. It was a complete accident, however.

"I went into a tackle with Jim Holton, then of Sunderland, and it was just one of those things.

"I was looking forward to playing for Norwich again, but now I'll have to wait until next season."

Paddon spent Christmas in hospital, but most of the Norwich players took time out to visit him.

Bond even went back to London to sign Peter Osgood on loan. Well, that's not strictly true as Ossie is still with Southampton.

But after so many years with Chelsea, the 29-year-old forward is accepted as a Londoner . . . so maybe it wasn't surprising Bond went in for him!

The Norwich boss also has his son Kevin — London-born — on the club's books.

And, of course, he took Ted MacDougall from West Ham to Carrow Road and once again got the best out of him.

A goal every other game is a good average and Supremac — now Southampton — seems at his best AWAY from London!

Bond, meanwhile, is more concerned about East Anglia rivals Ipswich than London clubs.

Their success has put pressure on us. Our fans look at Ipswich and wonder why we aren't quite up to their level.

"My answer is that Bobby Robson has had a few years start on me. Give me another two or three years and I hope we're ready to challenge for the Championship."

And maybe it'll be because of their Londoners that Norwich will have success.

ALL the neighbours and my school pals back in Llandudno knew one thing for certain... that young Joey Jones was crazy about football and that there was only one team in his life — LIVERPOOL.

How did they get the message so early? Because I spelt it out for them and I advertised my allegiance. When I was about ten I made a couple of plaques, carved Spion Kop on one and St. John on the other.

Then I put the Spion Kop one on our front door and the St. John one on the back door. On reflection, I suppose that was the wrong way round, really, as St. John was a striker in those days and should have been at the front. But I WAS only ten!

All I did was dream of playing for Liverpool. Jones the Dreamer? But dream came true in July, 1975 when the club I idolised paid £110,000 to Wrexham for me.

I still haven't really got used to it and sometimes wonder if I am a Liverpool player. But it's true, all right. Dreamland for me is now Wonderland.

Just one month after signing I made my First Division debut. It was at Q.P.R. and we lost 2-0. Not the greatest of starts, but even before I had pulled on a boot in earnest I knew that the team was full of ability, and would soon put things right.



'I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE I PLAY FOR LIVERPOOL'

by their young star JOEY "The Dreamer" JONES

The nerves played me up a bit. No wonder. For years I had been reading every word I could about Liverpool and watching them at every opportunity. Now I was going out to play in the same team as Kevin Keegan, Ian Callaghan, Emylyn Hughes and others equally well-known.

Only four months earlier I had been playing in the Third Division to gates of around 4,000 and it had all changed so suddenly. The Kop was no longer home-made plaque on my parents' front door. I would soon be playing before the real Kop.

That magic moment arrived in the second match of the season when we met West Ham. We drew that one and the fans were wonderful to me — as they are to most players.

And the stars proved how great they are by the way in which they made me feel at ease. They chatted to me; told me not to worry and promised that they would be around to help. They were and I quickly realised how much team spirit there is in the side.

I'm by no means a First Division veteran yet, but I can say that the difference between First Division and Third Divi-

sion football is immense.

There are plenty of good players in the Third and in the Fourth. Didn't Kevin Keegan and Ray Clemence not join Liverpool from Scunthorpe? And Phil Neal, one of my back-four partners, made over 180 League appearances with Fourth Division Northampton Town.

It's the atmosphere that is so different. The crowds "lift" you and bring out the best in you. Playing to near-empty terraces can be soul destroying at times.

The attention which is paid to detail at Anfield has also

impressed me. Nothing seems to be overlooked and the only thing the player has to worry about is playing.

For me there is a simple explanation. Liverpool are the greatest club in the world, so it is natural that they treat their players as the greatest. They make you feel important at Liverpool and you play with pride.

Joey the Dreamer has reached his Dreamworld. There is nothing more I can say except roll on next season. It can't start soon enough for me.

OUT of a total of 92 clubs in the Football League, 78 of them have record attendances that will never be beaten!

The main reason for this is the fact that Home Office and police restrictions have been vastly tightened since League soccer resumed again after World War Two ended in 1945.

When Bolton played Stoke in an F.A. Cup-tie on March 9th, 1946, a section of the crowd were so tightly packed crush barriers gave way.

As a result 33 people were killed and over 400 injured. From then on the pressure on clubs to restrict attendances was well and truly on.

Another reason why so many records will stand forever is that the habits of supporters are changing.

Instead of standing on rain-swept terraces they wanted more comfort and with the prospect of more cash coming in, the clubs were only too happy to build new stands.

Now around England are some magnificent stadiums.

Old Trafford is perhaps the show-piece of the Football League. Many other clubs have grounds they can be proud of. But, as Chelsea have found out, they can also be very expensive!

Chelsea, however, hold the record attendance at one ground and it was only a friendly match they played. It was at Cambridge United and the record of 14,000 was set before Cambridge were admitted to the Football League.

In the League's post-War history, 57 of the attendance records have been set up. The star attraction has been Manchester United.



"Funny, boss, my old dad was only saying last night that he remembers the time over 39,000 turned up to see Burnley in the Cup."

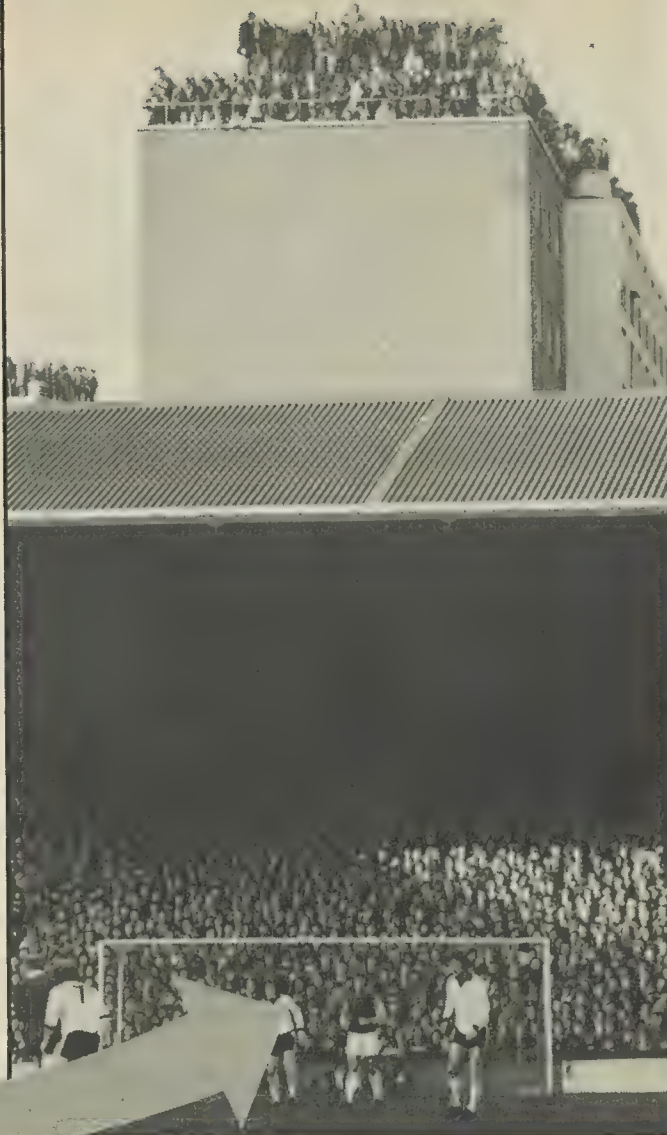


THE GATE

CLUB	RECORD ATTENDANCE			CAPACITY NOW	CLUB	RECORD ATTENDANCE			CAPACITY NOW
ALDERSHOT	v Carlisle U.	1970	19,138 (C)	20,000	COVENTRY C.	v Wolves	1967	51,457 (L)	48,000
ARSENAL	v Sunderland	1935	73,295 (L)	60,000	CREWE ALEX.	v Tottenham	1960	20,000 (C)	17,000
ASTON VILLA	v Derby Co.	1946	76,588 (C)	58,250	CRYSTAL PALACE	v Chelsea	1969	49,498 (L)	51,000
BARNSELEY	v Stoke C.	1936	40,255 (C)	38,500	DARLINGTON	v Bolton	1960	21,864 (L.C.)	20,000
BIRMINGHAM	v Everton	1939	66,844 (C)	52,500	DERBY COUNTY	v Tottenham	1969	41,826 (L)	38,500
BLACKBURN	v Bolton W.	1929	61,783 (C)	47,500	DONCASTER R.	v Hull C.	1948	37,149 (L)	30,000
BLACKPOOL	v Man. Utd.	1952	39,118 (L)	38,000	EVERTON	v Liverpool	1948	78,299 (L)	58,000
BOLTON	v Man. City	1933	69,912 (C)	60,136	EXETER C.	v Sunderland	1931	20,984 (C)	18,500
BOURNEMOUTH	v Man. Utd.	1957	28,799 (C)	24,000	FULHAM	v Millwall	1938	49,335 (L)	42,000
BRADFORD CITY	v Burnley	1911	39,146 (C)	23,469	GILLINGHAM	v Q.P.R.	1948	23,002 (C)	22,000
BRENTFORD	v Preston	1938	39,626 (C)	37,000	GRIMSBY T.	v Wolves	1937	31,651 (C)	28,000
BRIGHTON	v Fulham	1958	36,747 (L)	36,000	HALIFAX T.	v Tottenham	1953	36,885 (C)	25,000
BRISTOL CITY	v Preston	1935	43,335 (C)	37,000	HARTLEPOOL	v Man. Utd.	1957	17,426 (C)	16,500
BRISTOL ROVERS	v Preston	1960	38,472 (C)	39,333	HEREFORD U.	v Sheff. Wed.	1958	18,114 (C)	17,500
BURNLEY	v Huddersfield	1924	54,775 (C)	38,000	HUDDERSFIELD T.	v Arsenal	1932	67,037 (C)	48,000
BURY	v Bolton	1960	35,000 (C)	35,000	HULL C.	v Man. Utd.	1949	55,019 (C)	42,000
CAMBRIDGE UTD.	v Chelsea	1970	14,000 (F)	12,000	IPSWICH T.	v Leeds U.	1975	38,010 (C)	38,000
CARDIFF C.	v Arsenal*	1953	57,800 (L)	46,000	LEEDS U.	v Sunderland	1967	57,892 (C)	50,000
CARLISLE U.	v Birmingham	1957	27,500 (C)		LEICESTER C.	v Tottenham	1928	47,298 (C)	Not known
	and M'bro	1970	27,500 (C)	28,000	LINCOLN C.	v Derby Co.	1967	23,196 (L.C.)	25,300
CHARLTON A.	v Aston Villa	1938	75,031 (C)	66,000	LIVERPOOL	v Wolves	1952	61,905 (C)	56,318
CHELSEA	v Arsenal	1935	82,905 (L)	60,000	LUTON T.	v Blackpool	1959	30,069 (C)	25,000
CHESTER	v Chelsea	1952	20,500 (C)	20,000	MANCHESTER CITY	v Stoke C.	1934	84,569 (C)	52,500
CHESTERFIELD	v Newcastle	1939	30,968 (L)	28,500	MANCHESTER UTD.	v Aston Villa*	1920	70,504 (L)	60,500
COLCHESTER U.	v Reading	1948	19,072 (C)	16,150	MANSFIELD T.	v Nottm. For.	1953	24,467 (C)	23,500



Above: Liverpool's famous Kop. No trouble filling that or the rest of Anfield. Left: Tottenham's White Hart Lane once held over 75,000. Right: The F.A. Cup is the main attraction for the fans. A massive 42,000 packed Upton Park, and surrounding flats, for West Ham's Fourth Round replay against Hereford in February, 1972. Ground improvements have since cut the club's capacity.



But United are only one of 33 different clubs who have helped set the post-War records.

Pre-War, out of 35 records that were set, the then mighty Arsenal lead the way with five.

There is no doubt that the F.A. Cup is the main attraction for fans and always has been. Sixty three of the records were set for F.A. Cup-ties.

Bradford City have the longest standing League crowd record, set way back in 1911, the season that City won the F.A. Cup. A massive 39,146 turned up at City's Valley Parade to see Burnley in an earlier round.

Aldershot, Bristol Rovers, Carlisle, C. Palace, Lincoln, Rochdale, Scunthorpe, Shrewsbury, Southend, Southport, Swansea, Torquay, Tranmere and Watford can only await the day when they close their gates on a capacity crowd.

Although it must be pointed out that sometimes the gates at grounds are closed below the limit by the clubs or the police for safety reasons.

But one record that no club will want to take, however, is held by Stockport County.

When their ground was under suspension, their Second Division match against Leicester City was played at Old Trafford on May 7th, 1921, and only 13 bothered to turn up to watch!

BUSTERS

CLUB	RECORD	ATTENDANCE	CAPACITY	CLUB	RECORD	ATTENDANCE	CAPACITY
			NOW				NOW
MIDDLESBROUGH	v Newcastle U.	1949 53,596 (L)	42,000	SOUTHAMPTON	v Man. Utd.	1969 31,044 (L)	31,000
MILLWALL	v Derby Co.	1937 48,672 (C)	40,000	SOUTHEND U.	v Birmingham C.	1957 28,059 (C)	35,000
NEWCASTLE U.	v Chelsea	1930 68,386 (L)	56,000	SOUTHPORT	v Newcastle U.	1932 20,010 (C)	21,000
NEWPORT CO.	v Cardiff C.	1937 24,268 (L)	22,060	STOCKPORT COUNTY	v Liverpool	1950 27,833 (C)	24,904
NORTHAMPTON T.	v Fulham	1966 24,523 (L)	20,000	STOKE CITY	v Arsenal	1937 51,380 (L)	50,500
NORWICH C.	v Leicester C.	1963 43,984 (C)	33,000	SUNDERLAND	v Derby Co.	1933 75,118 (C)	53,500
NOTTINGHAM FOREST	v Man. Utd.	1967 49,945 (L)	49,000	SWANSEA C.	v Arsenal	1968 32,796 (C)	35,000
NOTTS COUNTY	v York C.	1955 47,310 (C)	40,000	SWINDON TOWN	v Arsenal	1972 32,000 (C)	28,000
OLDHAM	v Sheff. Wed.	1930 47,671 (C)	30,000	TORQUAY U.	v Huddersfield T.	1955 21,908 (C)	22,000
ORIENT	v West Ham	1964 34,345 (C)	34,000	TOTTENHAM H.	v Sunderland	1938 75,038 (C)	52,000
OXFORD UNITED	v Preston	1964 22,730 (C)	18,000	TRANMERE R.	v Stoke C.	1972 24,424 (C)	25,000
PETERBOROUGH U.	v Swansea	1965 30,096 (C)	30,000	WALSALL	v Newcastle U.	1961 25,453 (L)	24,100
PLYMOUTH A.	v Aston Villa	1936 43,596 (L)	40,000	WATFORD	v Man. Utd.	1969 34,099 (C)	36,500
PORTSMOUTH	v Derby Co.	1949 51,385 (C)	46,000	W.B.A.	v Arsenal	1937 64,815 (C)	50,500
PORT VALE	v Aston Villa	1960 50,000 (C)	50,000	WEST HAM	v Tottenham	1970 42,322 (L)	41,000
PRESTON N.E.	v Arsenal	1938 42,684 (L)	38,000	WOLVERHAMPTON W.	v Liverpool	1939 61,315 (C)	53,000
Q.P.R.	v Leeds U.	1974 35,353 (L)	30,000	WORKINGTON	v Man. Utd.	1958 21,500 (C)	21,000
READING	v Brentford	1927 33,042 (C)	27,200	WREXHAM	v Man. Utd.	1957 34,445 (C)	30,000
ROCHDALE	v Notts Co.	1949 24,231 (C)	28,000	YORK CITY	v Huddersfield T.	1938 28,123 (C)	17,000
ROTHERHAM U.	v Sheff. Utd.	1952 25,000 (L)	24,000				
	and Sheff. Wed.	1952 25,000 (L)	27,000				
SCUNTHORPE U.	v Portsmouth	1954 23,935 (C)	27,000				
SHEFFIELD UTD.	v Leeds U.	1936 68,287 (C)	49,000				
SHEFFIELD WED.	v Man. City	1934 72,841 (C)	55,000				
SHREWSBURY T.	v Walsall	1961 18,917 (L)	20,050				

*Attendances for Cardiff and Manchester United are club records. Semi-Final games at the grounds attracted bigger crowds.

Key: C-F.A. Cup; L-Football League; L.C.-League Cup; F-Friendly.



FOOTBALL and show-biz have become much closer in recent years. Soccer has given us stars such as George Best, whose flamboyant life-style has attracted thousands of new fans to the game. Almost fittingly, Bestie had his first taste of soccer in the United States during 1976 and played the summer season for Los Angeles Aztecs. The Aztecs, of course, are partly owned by pop millionaire Elton John . . . the Watford

chairman. While on the West Coast, Georgie ran into another pop superstar, Rod Stewart, who was once on Brentford's books. Rod the Mod is probably the most ardent football fan in show business and idolises Denis Law, the former Scotland star. One of Rod's proud possessions is a Scotland outfit and when he ran into George, he couldn't resist the temptation of an impromptu "international" clash.

Joining Crystal Palace was a shock to George Graham

GEORGE Graham and Terry Venables have been good friends since they played together at Chelsea over ten years ago.

Yet when Palace boss Venables signed his old pal from Portsmouth back in December, Graham was the last person to hear about the deal.

Said the former Scottish international, who has also played for Aston Villa, Arsenal and Manchester United: "I was surprised Terry didn't mention anything to me because I see him quite often socially.

"But I suppose it is best to do things officially and it came as a nice shock."

Graham was just recovering from an injury when Palace came in for him and the next thing he knew he was lining up against Liverpool at Anfield in the F.A. Cup.

Palace drew 0-0 but lost the Third Round replay 2-3 at Selhurst Park, with Graham scoring the final goal.

"I was a bit disappointed that we didn't beat them after the way we played at Anfield. But Liverpool aren't the sort of side to give you another chance if you don't bury them when you're on top."

The move to Palace has given a new

fillip to Graham's career but at the time he left Portsmouth he was hopeful they were in a position from which they could escape their troubles on and off the pitch.

"I had two good years there and I enjoyed it more than some people realised. The playing side was fine but off the pitch, you could never forget the club's problem because it was the topic of conversation wherever you went in the town.

"It was always in the local papers every week, too, and after a while that gets depressing.

"I helped the club's financial problems a bit by leaving because I was on a fantastic contract. They've got a lot of youngsters in the team now and I really hope they start having a bit of success."

From struggling at the foot of the table with Pompey, Graham is now looking forward to success at Palace.

"The set up is tremendous here and

there are quite a few players who wouldn't disgrace themselves in the First Division. I was surprised by some of the quality of the football when I arrived."

Graham, nicknamed "Stroller" at Arsenal because of his slow, graceful style, resents any implications that he's a lazy player, or that he didn't give value for money at Fratton Park.

"I've always maintained my enthusiasm for the game and as long as you've got that, you're okay. If anything, I'm a hungrier player now than ever.

"I'm enjoying my game and I'm in a good side, which helps as you get older. I'm 32 now and I intend to keep playing until I stop enjoying it.

"People like Peter Bonetti, Frank McLintock, Bobby Moore, Billy Bremner and Johnny Giles have all managed to keep playing well into their 30's and I believe I can do so, too."

As well as changing clubs, Graham has found himself with a new role at Selhurst Park, too — reverting to a striker from a midfield role.

He prefers the involvement that a midfield position ensures but is happy to keep playing up front as long as his manager Terry Venables is keen to employ him there.

"It's a bit of a novelty at the moment but if that wears off, I can always drop back a bit. The only trouble with playing forward is that if you get starved of the ball, there's not much you can do about it, and I like to be in the game for the entire 90 minutes.

"We've got a few players here who are doing different jobs to the ones they started in. Paul Hinshelwood, who is normally a midfield player, has been doing a tremendous job at full-back, and Steve Perrin has moved out to the wing after starting as a centre-forward.

"I suppose adaptability is the hallmark of a good side, and we're certainly that at Crystal Palace.

The move to a London club was ideal for Graham, as most of his friends live in the capital.

And he hasn't even had to troop round looking for a house. He kept his home in Cockfosters after leaving Arsenal.

George listens while his boss and friend Terry Venables discusses tactics during a break in training.



CLYDEBANK are geared for success

THE move from the glamour world of mighty Celtic to little Clydebank is one that most players would probably reject. Yet last season TWO Celtic players left Parkhead for New Kilbowie Park.

They were midfield man Tommy Callaghan and goalkeeper Denis Connaghan and both jumped at the chance to sign for the club that has startled Scottish soccer with their meteor-like rise and promotion to the Premier League.

Four years they were struggling and doing little of note. Now, though, they are reckoned to be one of the most ambitious outfits in Britain and everything is geared for success.

The experienced Callaghan says: "Everyone's talking about Clydebank, aren't they? People want to be entertained and that's just what we set out to do."

"Of course, it was a wrench leaving Celtic. I enjoyed every minute of my life there, but I consider I am lucky to have gone to Clydebank."

"I left one club whose trademark was attack and entertainment and I've joined another who happily think along

the same lines."

Callaghan's influence on the young side has been there for everyone to see. A lot of Celtic fans were disappointed when "T.C." — as he was known to them — left the club.

He was one of the most versatile players in the squad and his long, penetrating runs from defence into attack were a breathtaking sight. He scored some extremely valuable goals, but says: "I wish I had scored a lot more."

"My favourite goal? The next one! No, seriously, I remember one I scored against Clyde in a New Year's Day game at Parkhead several years ago and that gave me a lot of satisfaction."

"A long ball dropped out of our defence and I managed to bring it under control and turn to face the Clyde goal in one movement."

"I'm sure their goalkeeper — I think it was John Wright — didn't expect a shot, but I let one go anyway from about 30 yards. It felt good as soon as it left my foot and it soared high over the 'keeper's arms high into the net and we went on to win 5-0."

Manager Willie Munro did a good piece of business when he



Tommy Callaghan has been a big influence on the youngsters at New Kilbowie Park.

brought Callaghan to New Kilbowie Park. His experience will be invaluable and he is just the sort of enthusiastic personality to bring on the younger players such as strikers Mike Larnach and Joe McCallan.

Clydebank, too, have an enthusiastic and refreshing approach to the game. When they

played Rangers in the League Cup Quarter-Final last season they earned praise from all quarters.

They went to Ibrox for the first game and put three goals past Peter McCloy in a dramatic 3-3 draw. Many fans considered that result to be a fluke, but in the return they gained another draw — this time 1-1.

The replay went to Ibrox and the fans were convinced that The Bankies would be found out then. And what happened? It ended in an 0-0 draw after goalkeeper Jim Gallagher had saved a penalty.

Strength finally won out in the end and when Rangers won 2-1 in the second replay at Firhill. But although Clydebank went out of the trophy they were far from disgraced.

"We've got a good side here," says manager Munro, "and it will get better with experience. The lads enjoy their football and it says a lot when a player of the class of Davie Cooper said he was in no rush to get a transfer."

"Obviously I was sorry when he eventually signed for Rangers. He's going right to the top."

"Clydebank was not Davie Cooper and ten others. It's a unit where everyone plays his part."

Keep your eye on Clydebank. They are friendly, open club who like to play soccer attractively. There is a solid look about their squad and, with a little bit of deserved fortune, they will settle in at the top.

Celtic and Rangers, you have been warned!

Clydebank scored eight goals against Arbroath last season. Here's number three from Joe McCallan (right).



KEN SWAIN

BOLTON'S L-SS CHELSEA'S G+IN



Ken Swain's power up-front greatly contributed to Chelsea's promotion success last season.

AS Chelsea led the race for the First Division for most of last season, one of their two top goalscorers was Ken Swain.

It may have caused surprise to a lot of people in the game, but not to Ken, who explained the reason why.

"In the 1975-76 season Chelsea mainly played a 4-4-3 formation and I only scored four goals in my 24 League games as I played wide of the other front two.

"Last term there was Steve 'Jock' Finnieston and myself as the two strikers and that explains why both Steve and myself were well among the goals."

As Ken rapidly became a favourite of The Shed, one fact that the Chelsea faithful may not know came from Ken.

"When I was 11-years-old I trained once a week with Bolton Wanderers at Burnden Park and was on Associated Schoolboys forms with the club.

"They had spotted me playing for Kirby Schoolboys. But when I left school, I went down to Egham in Surrey to a teachers training college and after three years qualified as a P.E. and handicraft teacher.

"While at college I played with Wycombe Wanderers and it was while with them that Chelsea spotted me and I signed as a professional in August, 1973."

Ken is part of the new Chelsea, a team of pride and great promise. No wonder Bolton officials will look back at their League registrations list for December, 1966 with

some regret.

That was when they signed Ken Swain as a schoolboy but obviously didn't spot his future potential. So, Bolton's loss is surely Chelsea's great gain.

Ken spotlights the difference between the Chelsea side that finished 11th in Division Two in 1975-76 and the one that gained promotion last season.

"In 1975-76 there were teams of great experience like Sunderland and Southampton around. To our very young side they always looked so impressive even before the game started.

"But last term we found we were their equals and we knew, player for player, we had the best squad in the Second Division and that gave us

so much more confidence."

Ken who is 25, he was born in January, 1952, is a vital cog in a Chelsea side that, apart from Ken and £225,000 David Hay from Celtic, are all products of the youth side.

Chelsea's young skipper Ray Wilkins has already won full England caps and in their current form, several more of the young Stamford Bridge brigade could soon join him as internationals.

The future of Chelsea is in good hands for a long, long time to come as Ken explains. "Tommy Langley led our Football Combination scorers last season and shows great promise.

"Then there is left-winger Clive Walker. I shared digs with Clive and he knows where goal is, too."

Enjoying a soak in the bath at Highbury after a tough training session is Arsenal's Alan Hudson. No wonder his team-mates have nicknamed him "Soapy".

During last season SHOOT'S cameramen visited some of our leading players and caught them relaxing from the tensions of the game.

Off The



Above: Derby and Wales winger Leighton James and his lovely wife Sue in the bathroom of their new house. The bath looks big enough to take the whole Derby team ... and Alan Hudson. Right: West Ham striker John Radford at home with wife Engel and sons Robert and Ian.





Far left: Before leaving West Brom Johnny Giles ensured veteran goalkeeper John Osborne received the right treatment.

Left: Q.P.R.'s controversial star Stan Bowles finds a pinta the ideal way to build up his strength for the coming season.

Below: One of last term's highlights for Man. City's Brian Kidd was scoring four goals v. Leicester. Here he relives the moment with son Mark and daughter Clair.



Park



I WAS just under a year old when The Queen came to the throne in the winter of 1952.

Needless to say, I can't remember anything about this historic event and it's difficult to say exactly what my earliest memory of life is.

In fact, offhand I'm not sure where my family was living in those days.

I believe we were with my mother's parents, but the first home I recall is our prefab in Chiswick.

When I look back through our old scrapbooks, photographs bring back memories, although it's hard to be sure whether they're authentic or not.

I can definitely remember playing opposite our house, when I always wanted to touch the ball with my hands!

It's funny how insignificant things stick in your mind.

I was, I suppose, destined for a life in soccer. My grandfather was a top amateur of his day, while my father, Roy, was a professional with Brentford.

I used to play as often as I could in the huge park at the back of our prefab.

One of my earliest proudest possessions was given to me when I was nearly seven.

I watched Brazil win the 1958 World Cup on television and when my parents bought me the

my side of soccer
**GERRY
FRANCIS**



'When I wrote to The Queen...'

famous yellow and blue strip of the three-times World Champions I could hardly believe it. I'm sure I still have that outfit somewhere.

I still wore my old fashioned boots which went over my ankles and had what seemed like yards of lacing.

Many of the other kids had "new" slim-style boots but I didn't do too badly with my "ancient" pair!

My first organised team was at Hogarth junior school under the sports master Mr. Ball.

The side was comprised mainly of fourth year boys, but I was playing while I was still in the second year, which would have made me six or seven.

Shortly afterwards, I went on to captain the Chiswick district XI and we had a lot of success in the League and Cup competi-

tions.

In those days I was what was known as an inside-forward and wore number eight or number ten.

Unfortunately, my secondary school played rugby and my time there was nowhere near as happy as at primary school.

I was Brentford mad and although my dad's career had been ended by injury then — I can't remember ever seeing him play — I was a regular at Griffin Park.

Once, I went all the way up to Sunderland to see The Bees play an F.A. Cup-tie.

If my memory serves me correctly, Sunderland won 5-2 with John Docherty scoring Brentford's goals.

Little did I know then that when I was to join Queens Park Rangers, John Docherty would

be coaching me!

I also recall seeing England goalkeeper Ron Springett at Q.P.R.

I went to Loftus Road to see games now and again and Ron seemed enormous to me.

I was rather in awe of him so I asked my pal to get his autograph for me.

Small world again... I played with Ron for Rangers for a spell.

I was also taken to Stamford Bridge a few times and in the Chelsea team were Barry Bridges and Terry Venables... both future team-mates of mine at Rangers.

My attitude towards England in those days was much the same as it is now.

I'm proud to be a Londoner and English and want us to win at ANY sport.

Alf Ramsey and Don Revie



TOP

"Her Majesty The Queen is also interested in racing pigeons."

RIGHT

Jimmy Armfield and Alfredo di Stefano before the England/Rest of the World game."

were both stars of the 1950's, but I can't remember seeing them play.

I've never met Her Majesty The Queen, although I did write to her once when I was nine.

I used to keep racing pigeons even in those days — a family tradition — but the council made me get rid of them.

I was heart-broken so I wrote to Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace.

The Queen is also keen on racing pigeons and I wondered if she could help me in any way.

I had a reply from her secretary, I think it was, explaining that while The Queen sympathised with me, there was nothing she could do. I've still got that letter.

The first truly great team I could appreciate is the Real Madrid side that monopolised the European Cup in its early years.

Puskas, di Stefano and company added a new dimension to soccer with their phenomenal skills and approach to the game.

I'm not sure if there is any special soccer game at Wembley scheduled as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations.

It would be nice, but the main problem would be — as usual — fitting in an extra match. Our fixture list is already full.

In 1963, the Football Association staged an England versus

the Rest of the World spectacle at Wembley to celebrate the F.A.'s centenary.

How many of you can remember that game? England won 2-1 with goals by Terry Paine and Jimmy Greaves.

It was a superb display of football and how fitting it would be to have a similar clash this year.

More recently, we saw the Centenary Test Match at Melbourne between Australia and England.

Many former stars of the two countries were in attendance — what a week it must have been.

How about an England versus Europe match at Wembley?

The F.A. could get together as many old England stars as possible — to see such a collection of talent in one stadium all at once would be unforgettable.

I very much doubt if such a match will be arranged. We already have a crowded autumn and winter fixture list, starting with a friendly against Switzerland in September . . . and, of course, our last World Cup-tie against Italy two months later.

Happy Holiday . . .

Terry Paine



WANTED!

Brighton's sharpshooter PETER WARD

PETER Ward is the man all the top clubs in the country have been chasing — ever since his phenomenal start to the 1976-77 season.

Ward had all the managers and scouts racing down the A23 to Brighton after hitting 21 goals in his first 24 League games and then to top the Third Division marksmen table with 36 overall.

Scoring ability like that rarely goes un-noticed — but it wasn't very long ago that Ward seemed unlikely ever to realise his ambition of being a pro. footballer.

Ward was working in a factory and playing non-professional soccer for Burton Albion when the then Brighton manager Peter Taylor heard about him.

Fortunately for Brighton, Taylor moved fast; perhaps sensing something special in the reports he'd had.

Peter Taylor signed him on immediately and Ward was a new arrival at the Goldstone Ground in time to play eight matches at the end of the 1975-76 season.

All a bit of a dream story? "It certainly is," admits Ward. "I thought I'd never get the chance to play professional football let alone be talked of in £200,000 deals."

Big money talks, so will Ward leave Brighton in the near future? "Not likely!" roars Albion's present boss Alan Mullery. "He's going to be a really great player this lad and I want him to be that sort of player in Brighton's team."

Ward himself believes go-ahead Brighton could become a

First Division side in a few years.

"I am sure we can, especially as we've made it to the Second. We have players with a lot of ability here. We've also got the support to ensure big gates and the necessary money to strengthen the side and keep us there."

"Our fans have helped me a lot. When you're playing in front of crowds of almost 20,000 and sometimes many more it's bound to lift the players."

"But Alan Mullery has built me up as a player a tremendous amount. He has got me thinking quicker in the penalty-area; he has made me a lot sharper."

"He has been closer to me and all the players than Peter Taylor was and I reckon that's because he was playing himself up till the end of the 1975-76 season. He knows what the modern player does and feels."

Ward accepts the other side of success with a shrug of the shoulders. "I'm not a big lad at all and I do get kicked," he says. "But I reckon that if they're resorting to kicking me, they're not concentrating on their game and I've got a good chance of revenge by scoring."

"I'm still only 21 and I accept I shan't score goals by the hatfull all the time."

Ward's sharpness and goal-snatching ability in front of goal has already been likened to the style of an Allan Clarke. Many have called him a cross between Clarke and one of the former "greats" — Jimmy Greaves. High praise indeed.

West Ham United centre-half Bill Green (white shorts) challenges Ipswich Town defender Kevin Beattie at Upton Park.



WHY EASTER ROAD FANS ARE ANGRY WITH HIBS

HIBS fans have come to expect the unexpected from their heroes. The Easter Road have taken over Patrick Thistle's former mantle as "The Great Unpredictables."

Are they wonderful? Or are they woeful? On occasion in the past they have presented soccer of breathtaking artistry.

However, just when it looks as though they are set for something really good, they seem to fall apart. Their magnificence can be lost in mediocrity. The Easter Road fans are fed-up. They had hoped manager Eddie Turnbull could produce a settled team and when they won the League Cup five seasons ago it looked as though they were at last on their way.

But their performances over the past two years have been nothing short of miserable. The fans have called for the resignation of Turnbull and they have been angered by transfer moves from the club.

When Pat Stanton left the club for Celtic in a swap deal with Jackie McNamara going to Easter Road many supporters vowed never to go back — and a look at their attendance would seem to indicate that some of the fans have carried out their threat.

Sold Stars

Hibs, of course, have been known as one of Scotland's most willing sellers. Players such as Joe Baker, Colin Stein, Peter Marinello, Peter Cormack and others have been allowed to leave the club for sizeable cheques.

Other players have been brought in, but they haven't properly replaced the personalities who have gone. Joe Harper had a short spell with the Edinburgh men after returning to Scotland from Everton in a £120,000 deal.

The Hibs fans thought their favourites had changed their ideas and were now willing to splash out in an effort to get a consistent and successful side. Unfortunately, Harper's stay at Easter Road was far from happy and he was allowed to leave the club for just under half that £120,000 fee for Aberdeen.

Scotland desperately needs a successful, powerful Easter Road side. Their name still spells a certain magic, but this



Manager Eddie Turnbull... fans have called for his resignation.

Joy for Hibs last season... when a goal from Ally McLeod (right, dark shirt) was enough to beat Kilmarnock at Rugby Park.

will not continue if they don't get out of their form nosedive.

One former Easter Road favourite, who wants to remain anonymous for obvious reasons, says: "I was delighted to get away from Hibs. There were a lot of personal conflicts during my stay there."

"My football began to suffer because of matters off the field. I couldn't give my best and that wasn't fair to the fans. Funnily enough, when I joined Hibs I was overjoyed."

"I honestly thought I had it made. I was ready to give everything I possibly had, but I was never allowed to express myself either on or off the park."

So, what do Hibs have to do to get back on the right rails? That's the million dollar question, but it is one that

must be answered immediately.

Players such as John Brownlie, John Blackley, Des Bremner and Bobby Smith could walk into any team in Britain so they must form the foundation of the side.

Other young players must be encouraged to show their skills. Striker Ally McLeod is one of the most talented attackers in the game, but he has been dogged by injuries and the remaining Hibs fans will no doubt be hoping that he is given a settled and trouble-free run next season.

Last season Hibs went out of Europe in the Second Round to unknown Swedish side Oesters Vaxjoe, a team of amateurs. In the Scottish Cup they were shocked at home by little part-time Arbroath.

Those are the sort of results that will keep the disgruntled fans away from Easter Road. Let's hope that the lessons of the past have been learned. Brilliant? Or just plain bad? That's the mystery Hibs will have to solve next season.





A MAN

Alan Porter (far right) — also seen in action during the Derby/Sunderland game last season.



FOOTBALL League referee Alan Porter left his Bolton home just after 9.30 a.m. It was late November, a biting wind blew and it was bitter cold. But Alan was full of the joys of Spring. He was on his way to referee the First Division match between Derby County and Sunderland.

After five years on the full list, Alan's quota of matches is approximately 24 per season. Usually you'll find him at Workington, Carlisle or Rotherham. "I've already been on telly twice this season," he quips humorously. "That was at Tranmere and Everton."

Alan loves his football. "People make remarks about me smiling and laughing on the pitch. It's not that I treat it trivially, but to me football is a game to be enjoyed."

He openly admits that he enjoys the big crowds and the big match atmosphere.

"But this doesn't mean to say that I don't give 100 per cent at places like Workington, because I do."

Alan motors to most matches. "I'm a car traveller," he says. "I always make sure that I've got a reliable car. I would never gamble on a banger." His allowance is eight pence a mile and his match fee the princely sum of £17.50.

"This is paid by the club directly after the match," he told SHOOT. "Then the club concerned reclaims the money from the Football League. If I travel by rail I can claim first class expenses, and if it means an overnight stay I can claim an allowance for that as well."

Ask him how he feels about turning full-time and he's quite honest about it. "If they offer me £50,000 for a five year contract then I'm thinking about it," he says with a smile.

"It's such a dicey business," he adds. "You're only on for a season to season basis. It's not automatic. In fact, you get a letter from the Football League asking you if you would like to apply before the season starts."

Alan's full-time job is working as a junior school headmaster and there are times when he wonders into which job he puts more work. "What with running local football and giving talks. But you're not dependent on football for a living and this, for me, is the beauty of non-full-time referees."

Alan trains every day at Bolton's Burnden Park ground under professional supervision. "This is

supporters is thus avoided." After dumping his bag in the dressing room, Alan is very much a man alone. Time drags and adrenalin builds. At 1.30 p.m. linesman Vic Callow arrives closely followed by Phil Stoakley.

Alan greets them like long lost friends, although he's never met them before. "By the time 3 o'clock comes we're firm friends," he says, as the nervousness begins to show.

"Of course I'm tense," he admits. "Wouldn't you be? But once I'm out on that pitch I'm o.k."

"They're all sons," he says, taking a dig at the modern jargon. "Come on, son. Magic, son, you'll hear them say."

essential," he claims. "Without supervision you can train every day and do nothing — pack in when it gets hard."

His favourite team, unquestionably, is Bolton Wanderers and Nat Lofthouse banging 'em in. "They still talk about him, you know," says Alan, momentarily savouring the delights of a Lofthouse special.

Alan arrives at the Baseball Ground just before noon.

"During the depths of Winter: November, December, January and February, we've got to be at the ground at least three hours before kick-off. Any other time we've got to be there at least one and a half hours before kick-off."

"But at any time the home club can request the referee to come sooner, or indeed, to come the night before if they think a pitch inspection is necessary and there's a possibility of a cancellation."

"Unnecessary travel for the visiting team and their



"Nobody scores a goal these days; they knock it in or sweep it in."

At 2.30 p.m. a representative from both teams enters the ref's dressing room with the team sheets. One copy is given to Alan and one copy is given to the opponents' representative. It can be the manager, the coach or assistant-manager. In this case it was Colin Murphy.

Whilst they were in, Alan asked them what time they wanted the two linesmen to go into the players' dressing

rooms to examine the boots — a compulsory piece of soccer regulations.

Alan mentions this so that he can time his own pre-match instructions. "This varies," he explains. "Some refs prefer to do it whilst they're walking around inspecting the pitch, but I prefer to do it as near as possible to kick-off time."

When the linesmen return from the boot inspection — one to each dressing room, Alan gets down to the serious business of the match in hand. It looked like being a tough afternoon. Both clubs had only won twice and both clubs were operating with caretaker managers. Sunderland's Stokoe had resigned, and in a week of Derby trauma,

something, and this I stress, and you think I've not seen it, then stick your flag up." Both were to keep a check on the score.

Alan continued his talk. The main theme was one of positional judgment, unison and common sense, but even with 100 per cent backing — and Alan would take nothing less — out there in the middle he was still very much a man alone.

Over 25,000 spectators and the Press were only too eager to prove him right or wrong. They'd all got a better view than he had. They all knew more about football than he did.

But Alan held the trump card — it was his decisions

outside-right. There had been no out of the ordinary incidents to suggest a switch in pre-match plans.

The second-half followed a similar pattern to the first with Derby doing all the running. Gemmill was having a magnificent match and showed his skill and bravery as he rode two flying tackles before slipping the ball to Bourne.

But the centre-forward with the goal at his mercy put his shot over the bar.

Five minutes before full-time both linesmen gave a pre-arranged signal which Alan acknowledged. At the end of the 90 minutes both linesmen again signalled. A few seconds later, and Alan

particular purpose, but they don't come into the referee's dressing room. They are forbidden to do so, as indeed are all visitors.

"Overall what they have to say is quite valuable — particularly if one reads them in relation to a number of assessments rather than just the one. If the same point keeps coming through, then you're obviously missing something and it's got to be looked at."

Alan will be marked three ways on a scale of one to ten. Each club submits a mark and the assessor submits a mark. The referee doesn't see the marking, but the Football League will and a record will be kept.

One Sunday paper called the match a bruising dog fight that referee Alan Porter allowed to slide out of control. That was Karl Kershaw of *The People*.

But McFarland didn't appear to share his view when he said, "The match wasn't unduly physical." Neither did Leighton James — the man booked. "I was silly and can't complain," he admitted. "There was the odd bad tackle, but that always happens."

Kershaw gave Alan an average mark of six — not bad for a bruising dog fight.

On Monday, Alan went as usual to Burnden Park. "The players moaned about their match referee to me," he said, "but it would make no difference if I went to Chelsea or Crystal Palace or where ever; it would still be the same tale."

The man alone cannot hope to be popular; Alan knows it and so does everybody else. What puzzles us is not why he does the job in the first place, but why people keep seeking the opinion and services of a band of men who allegedly "know nothing about the subject".

ALONE

that counted. They could rant and rave as much as they liked, but it wouldn't make the slightest difference.

Three sharp blasts on his Acme thunderer and the two captains Roy McFarland and Billy Hughes came to meet Alan and his two linesmen and to toss for choice of ends. The linesmen had both preferred to shake hands with the captains before attending to the goal nets.

McFarland won the toss and elected to play towards the Osmaston end and the mass of segregated Sunderland fans cornering the Colombo popular side.

As expected, Derby opened with a flurry and should have scored in the first minute, but Powell, with only goalkeeper Siddall to beat, blasted his shot over the bar.

Sunderland survived the early pressure and nearly sneaked a goal as Hughes wormed his way through only for Kerr to be caught offside.

Derby's Leighton James was booked for a retaliatory tackle on Henderson, but seconds later raced away in a fine move with Gemmill, only to see his shot bounce off the advancing Siddall.

Gemmill was fouled three times in quick succession as the Sunderland tackling became desperate and tough. In the 44th minute Derby took the lead when James lashed the ball into the roof of the net after a Hector shot had hit the bar and bounced down.

At half-time, Alan decided to keep his linesmen at



blew for full time.

"Did you enjoy it, Alan?" we asked, after he'd showered and changed — talking to a referee just after the final whistle is not to be recommended.

"Well, let's put it this way," he said modestly, "if the fans and players have enjoyed it, then I've enjoyed it. But this game's about players. It's not about referees."

Four to seven days after a match, Alan receives an assessment on his performance.

"The assessors are appointed by the Football League," he said. "You don't know who they are. You may, on the off chance, see a former colleague and putting two and two together guess that he's at that match for one

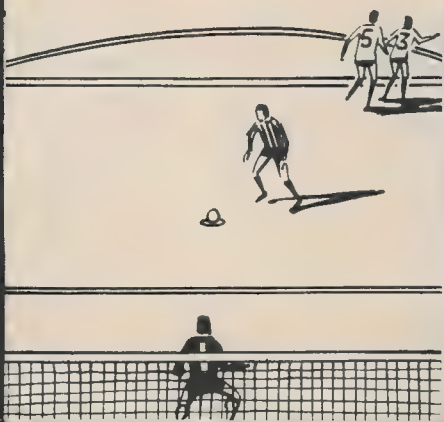
Mackay had been sacked.

"I want you to go to outside-right for the first-half," Alan began firmly. Confidence oozed. It was to be a team job. The two linesmen — both class one officials — hadn't come for a Saturday afternoon out, as some people might think. They were an integral part of a well organised set-up.

"If I'm in trouble don't stand there," said Alan. "Come across and get involved. The throw-ins and off-sides are, in the main, yours. If you see

Test your refereeing skills and knowledge of the laws of the game by following "You Are The Ref" in Shoot every week!

1. An attacker wants to take a penalty quickly, before two defenders have had a chance to leave the area. Is this in order?



YOU ARE THE REF



2. A 'keeper throws the ball over an opponent's head, takes six steps to run past him to catch the ball before releasing it after another three steps. Do you take any action here?

4. In a junior match a club member acts as a linesman but continually disagrees with your decisions. Should you replace him?



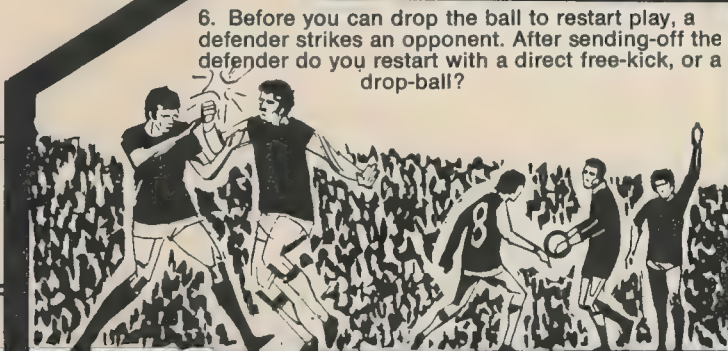
3. After the ball has crossed the goal-line for a goal-kick, a defender kicks an opponent when they are in the penalty-area. Do you give a penalty?

5. An attacker (number 9) lines up with defenders, on the goal-line between the posts, to face an indirect free-kick less

than ten yards from goal. As the kick is taken he steps forward out of the wall, and the ball goes through the gap into goal. Do you award (a) a goal, (b) a goal-kick or (c) a free-kick to the defending team?



6. Before you can drop the ball to restart play, a defender strikes an opponent. After sending-off the defender do you restart with a direct free-kick, or a drop-ball?



ANSWERS

ed, not having at least two defenders between himself and the goal-line. 6. Restart with a drop-ball, because, as in Question 3, the ball was not in play when the incident took place.

1. No. Your signal should wait until the defenders have left the penalty-area and are correctly positioned. 2. Yes. Award an indirect free-kick. 3. No. Restart with a goal-kick because the ball was not in play when the offence occurred. You should also dismiss the defender, of course. 4. Yes. Replace him immediately. 5. Award a free-kick. The attacker was offside when the ball was kick-



ARSENAL, who won the coveted Double in 1971, can repeat this feat within the next couple of years.

That's the opinion of Peter Simpson, The Gunners' 32-year-old defender.

And he should know. Simpson signed professional terms at Highbury in 1962 and shared in the club's rise back to the top during the 60's and 70's.

'He's not far short of his 400th League appearance and would surely have won England honours had he not played the same role as Bobby Moore.

Simpson saw the 1971 team grow ... and he reckon's Terry Neill's rebuilt side

is growing in the same fashion.

He says: "There are more youngsters in this side. The likes of David O'Leary, Chippy Brady, Frank Stapleton and Trevor Ross are only about 20, yet already they have a fair bit of experience behind them.

"David will be the best centre-half in Britain soon. He's not far short of being this now.

"I believe this team can become as effective as the 1971 line-up. I can see many of the good points of that side in the new Highbury squad.

"To be honest, I'm a little surprised we did so well last season. I was rather pessimistic at the beginning of the campaign.

"The arrival of Malcolm Macdonald and the emergence of Frank Stapleton gave us plenty of goal-power.

"We must have the most effective pair of strikers in the League.

"This team has more licence to go forward than the '71 side. Mind you, if the old team was around today it would still take some beating.

"Don Howe had us playing to a strict tactical system which got the maximum from every player.

"The present players have more opportunity to show their flair. We don't have a recognised ball-winner in

midfield.

"Trevor Ross is the anchor-man, yet he scores some of our most spectacular goals by going forward at the right occasion.

"At the same time, we gave away some silly goals by not being well-organised.

"I'm not saying we should be more defensive, but in the First Division there is no room for any slackness."

Simpson — Stan to his friends (because they think he looks like Stan Laurel from Laurel and Hardy) — was dropped after a few games last term.

Terry Neill bought Pat Howard, 28, from Newcastle United to tighten the Highbury rearguard.

Simpson admits: "The manager was perfectly right to leave me out. I was playing rubbish!

"I've always been a slow starter and I simply wasn't sharp enough.

"Reserve team football bucked my ideas up. Playing in front of a few hundred people — if that — is hard to accept after all the good times.

"I got my head down and trained harder than ever. At 32, I realise I must put even more effort into this side of my game."

Simpson and Pat Rice are the only two members of the Double team still playing regularly at Arsenal.

Unfortunately, Simpson had to drop out of the Arsenal side again towards the end of the season when he tore a cartilage at Middlesbrough.

"It was a chance in a million," he says. "One of their players was time-wasting.

"He kicked the ball away and I stuck a foot out to stop it. The ball caught me square on my toes and twisted my knee."

Arsenal ended the season on a bright note, with some fine results after a dreadful spell earlier in the year.

Simpson concludes: "I like to think I have three or four more years left in soccer."

'ARSENAL FOR THE DOUBLE — AGAIN'

**predicts
Peter Simpson**



A spectacular Simpson clearance halts Liverpool's Steve Heighway during the 1971 F.A. Cup Final. The future of Arsenal depends on youngsters such as David O'Leary (top of page).

FOCUS ON



JOHN ROBERTSON

Nottingham Forest

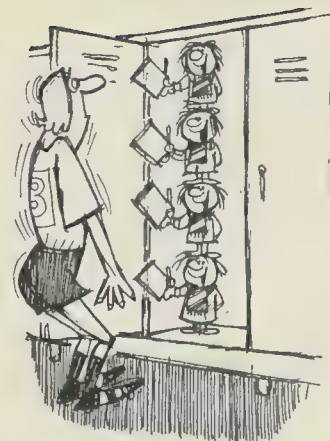
FULL NAME: John Neilson Robertson
 BIRTHPLACE: Uddington, Scotland
 BIRTHDATE: 20th January
 HEIGHT: 5 ft 7 in
 WEIGHT: 11 st 6 lb
 PREVIOUS CLUBS: None
 MARRIED: No
 CAR: Viva
 FAVOURITE PLAYER: Alan Hudson
 FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Rangers
 MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Too many to mention
 MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: My debut
 BIGGEST THRILL: Scoring my first League goal

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing in the Quarter-Finals of the F.A. Cup in 1974 v. Newcastle
 BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Holland
 FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak
 MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Eating, playing tennis, music
 MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Being overweight
 FAVOURITE T.V. SHOW: Columbo
 FAVOURITE SINGER: Bryan Ferry
 FAVOURITE ACTORS: Clint Eastwood, Robert Shaw
 BEST FRIEND: Dave Serella (Walsall)
 BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My fiancée Sally because I

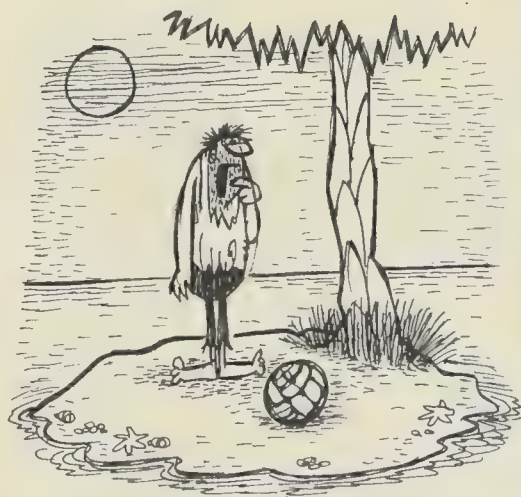
wasn't doing well until I met her
 BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Losing
 PERSONAL AMBITION: To play for Scotland
 IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? Struggling
 WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Bryan Ferry

John Robertson

FOOTBALL



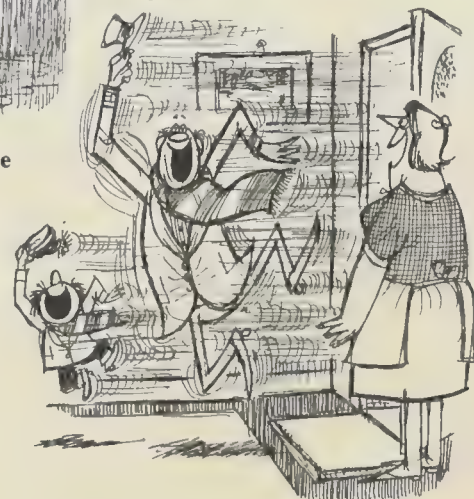
"Caught you at last. Autograph, please"



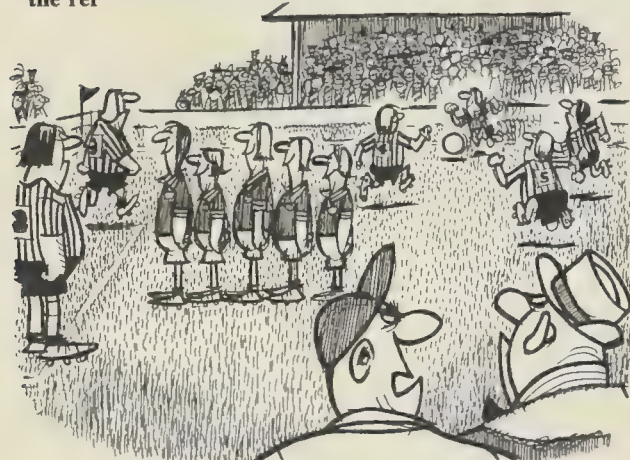
"I must be going mad — I keep arguing with the ref"



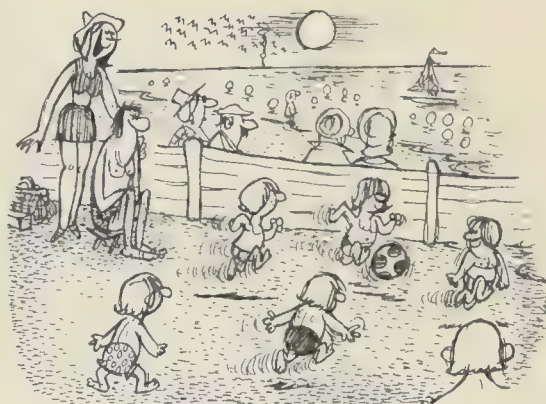
"I do wish you wouldn't come to watch me play, mum"



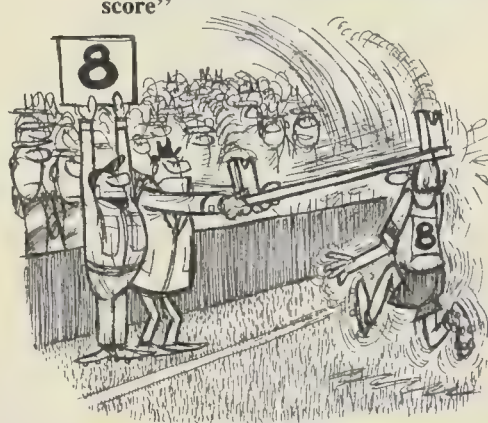
"So your lot have won at last . . ."



"I think it's a cheek the way their forwards line up and take turns to score"



"Don't tell me they've made you 12th man?"



FUNNIES

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

Across: (1) Cantello. (7) On. (8) Fail. (9) Name. (10) Eats. (12) Sole. (14) Hereford. (17) Two. (18) Ore. (20) Steve. (22) Years. (24) Into. (26) So. (27) Falter. (29) An. (31) Trail. (32) Sofa. (33) Grand.

Down: (1) Coventry. (2) An. (3) Tense. (4) Lambert. (5) Of. (6) Field. (11) Thomas. (12) So. (13) Orient. (15) Ross. (16) Fee. (19) Moor. (21) Villa. (23) Rota. (25) Tend. (27) Fag. (28) Air. (29) As. (30) No.

Jumbled Name: STAN BOWLES.

I GUESS it is stating the obvious when I say that football has been good to me. The quality of life that I lead is due almost entirely to the greatest game in the world.

But much though I love it, I don't see me being involved with the game after I finish playing.

There is still a lot to happen in my career, I hope, and I appreciate it is still a bit early to be talking of retirement... but football fate is a funny thing and any player who has any responsibilities at all must be consistently thinking of his future.

I think it takes a special kind of guy to become a manager. It is not just a question of knowing the game, but of knowing how to put what you have learned across to others.

Obviously working under a man like Jock Stein, the finest manager in the world, I have picked up a few tips... but at this stage of my life I don't think I will be following in his hallowed footsteps.

A Shock

When Billy McNeill retired after his amazing reign as "Caesar" of Parkhead, he declared he would never go into management, despite his name being linked with Morton and Ayr United. Instead he chose to concentrate on his considerable business interests.

But in March he shocked Scottish soccer by taking over as boss of struggling Second Division Clyde.

There will be no second thoughts for me. Even now I am planning ahead with interests in a pub with my father-in-law and an aerial business.

Football has given my wife Marina, daughter Kelly and son Paul a high standard of living... and it is my responsibility to keep that up even after I quit playing.

At the moment it looks as if the best way I will be able to do that is by working outside football.

Mind you, it would be easier for me to become a coach or manager than some international players I can remember.

Denis Law, a childhood idol whom I later had the honour to play with in the Scottish team, just couldn't bring himself to sit in the stand and watch a game.

He used to sit and kick every ball with the lads on the park and it must have been a tough life for those people who were

sitting beside him.

Imagine what he would have been like in a dug-out! Anyway I see Denis must have solved some of his problems because he is working as a radio commentator.

I'm not just as bad as that, in fact I enjoy watching other teams play.

Especially if there is someone I know in action. When Celtic were involved in a Sunday game last season I always took the opportunity to go along and see my mate Vic Davidson playing for Motherwell.

It was quite a season for The Celts and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of fans who have written to me at Parkhead.

I am trying to answer them all, but it will take me ages.

If you want to write — and I can't promise a reply — please do. And if, like Sean Relihan of Bedford House, Listowel, Co. Kerry, Eire, who wrote to me at the SHOOT offices, you don't know the address, it is: Celtic Football Club, Celtic Park, London Road, Parkhead, Glasgow.

While I am on about letters, I would like to mention one that Noel Gorman of 210 Millbrook Avenue, Kilbarrack West, Dublin 1 wrote to me... again c/o SHOOT!

Celtic fan Noel, asked me if my club would come to Ireland to play in a charity match in aid of an organisation which teaches children who suffer from brain damage. He added that he had written to Jock Stein and chairman Desmond White with the same request

without receiving a reply.

Well, Noel, the letters must have gone astray in the mail somewhere because we receive requests like that almost every day and Mr. Stein and Mr. White make a point of replying to them promptly.

I can't say whether Celtic would be able to play, but we have taken part in several charity matches in the past.

We had a great game against Benfica for the Save the Children fund and we played in Ballyboffey in Eire for the dependants of fisherman killed in a trawling tragedy.

Try writing to Mr. Stein again, Noel.

Meanwhile, have a super summer and here's to another winning winter for The Celts in 1977-78.

Kenny Dalglish

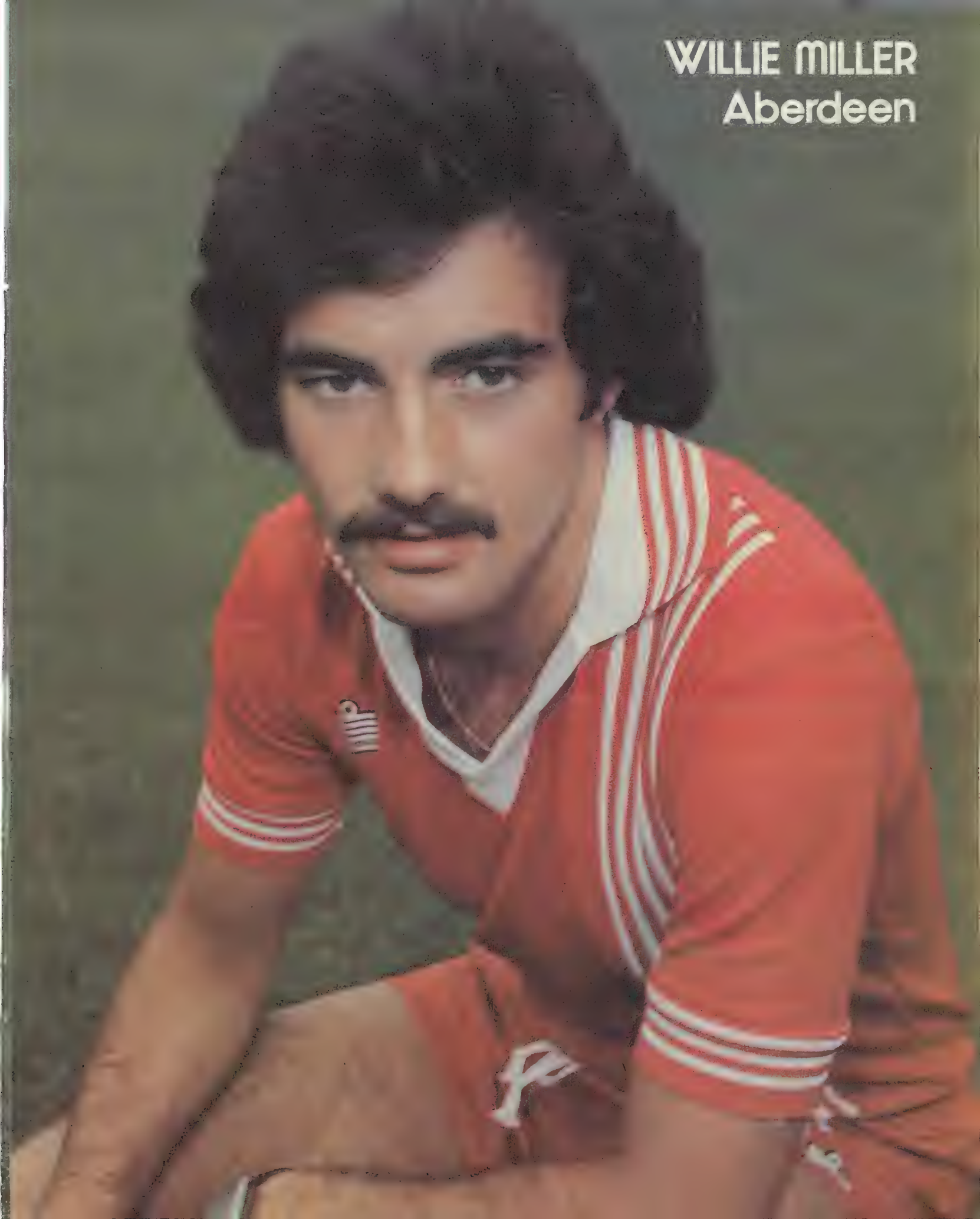
Tartan Talk KENNY DALGLISH

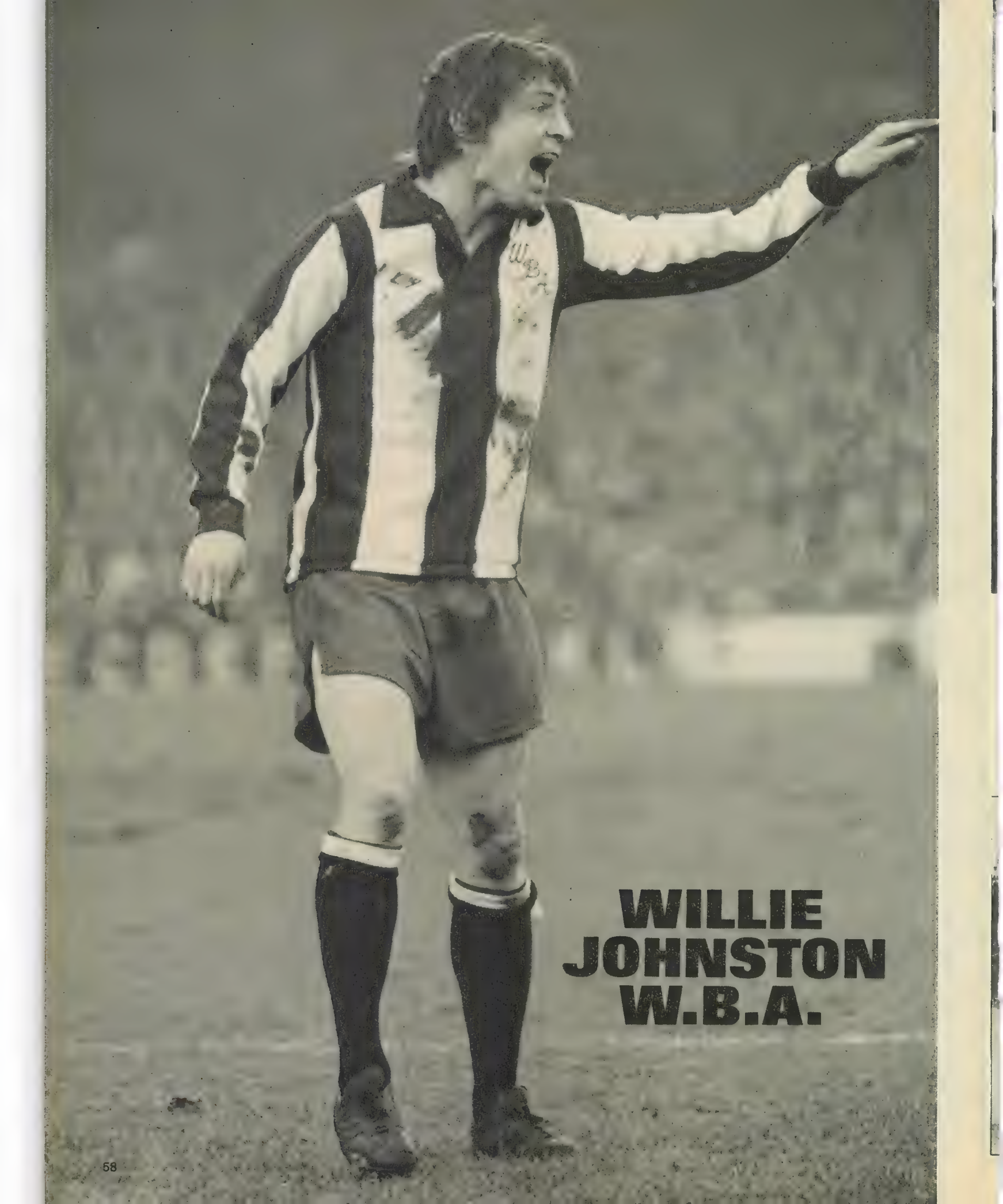
'I don't want to be a manager'

Soccer has given Kenny and his family (right) a high standard of living.



WILLIE MILLER
Aberdeen





**WILLIE
JOHNSTON
W.B.A.**



SOMETHING unusual happened to Mike Channon in February. He was dropped by England . . . the first time this had happened since he established himself in the international team some four years and 38 caps previously.

And those who had said that life in Division Two with Southampton had taken the edge off the 28-year-old striker wore an "I told you so" look.

Channon gets angry when people suggest the only place for an international player is in Division One.

He says: "The standard in the Second Division has risen in recent years, whereas Division One's has stayed more or less how it was.

"Look how many Division Two sides have knocked so-called top teams out of Cup competitions.

"We at Southampton have proved that on our day we can beat ANY side in the

Why Mike's happy in Division Two

country.

"There are some very good teams in the Second. Defences mark even tighter in many respects.

"Certainly I've found I had a yard more space in the top Division.

"Anyone who's played in Division Two will tell you it's far from easy to score goals, which is why my return in recent seasons gives me satisfaction.

"There was a time a couple of years ago when I asked for a transfer. I'm glad it didn't happen now.

"I've won an F.A. Cup winners' medal and we've had a good run in Europe.

"Plenty of players in Division One would love to swap places with me."

Channon doesn't feel his international future is hindered by playing in Division Two.

"It hurt when I was dropped for the Holland game. Yes, I was surprised because my record speaks for itself.

"I've scored almost a goal every other game and in the past year or so I've been pretty consistent.

"My attitude was simply to get my head down and work even harder. Playing for England means a lot to me . . . everything, in fact.

"I dearly want to be in Argentina next year. I've never played in a World Cup Finals and by 1982 I'll be the wrong side of 30.

"It upsets me to hear England knocked so often. I admit some of our performances

have been disappointing, yet I believe our biggest mistake has been to try and adapt our game.

"We should stick to what we're good at rather than copy the Continentals. I admire the Dutch and the Germans, but at the same time there are many qualities in our style that THEY like."

In fact, if you ask Channon to pick the player he has admired most of all in the past ten years . . . he'll go for Gerd Müller, the goal-king of Bayern Munich and West Germany.

"This bloke's record is little short of impossible. He played over 60 times for his country and still averaged over a goal a game.

"Nobody in modern football has the finishing power of Müller. He scores from quarter-chances as well as half-chances.

"England fans won't forget his 1970 Mexico World Cup goal. He made it look

simple, but it was typical Müller . . . on hand at the right moment.

"The guy is so quick in tight situations that he can't be marked for the entire 90 minutes.

"Time and time again you think he's drifted out of the game . . . only to pop up and score.

"The nearest English player I can remember is Jimmy Greaves. He didn't miss many . . . a first-class goal-poacher.

"I have to laugh when these players are criticised for not working hard enough off the ball.

"What's the point of telling Müller to chase back all over the place when he's most effective around the opponents' goal?"

And Channon's future?

"I'm quite happy to help Southampton back into Division One.

"I think the side we have now is better than the one which won the F.A. Cup in 1976.

"Alan Ball has arrived and he's a real battler. His presence has brought out the best in young Steve Williams, who's only 18 but a great prospect.

"Ted MacDougall is good for 20 goals a season, despite what his critics say.

"In goal, Peter Wells is the best young 'keeper I've seen in years. I'll be very surprised if he doesn't make a really big impact in the game.

"I'm enjoying my football. I always have done.

"I even get bored during the close season. While everyone else wants a rest, I'm raring to go again after a couple of weeks."



Mike Cullerton joined Vale from Stafford Rangers

Roy Sproson's advice to hard-up clubs 'GO SHOPPING FOR NON-LEAGUE BARGAINS'

PORT Vale manager Roy Sproson (right), one of football's shoe-string shoppers insists that many League clubs are ignoring an untapped source of talent.

Sproson explains: "I think the answer to a lot of the money troubles facing the smaller clubs is to be found by recruiting players from the non-League outfits.

"Some managers concentrate all their scouting on the Third and Fourth Divisions and the Central League but they are missing out.

"I've picked up four members of my current side from the Northern Premier League and last season I had three players from the Southern League and Cheshire League under review."

Sproson added: "It is not so long ago that Paul Mariner was playing for Chorley in the Cheshire League and look at him now — a £200,000 plus signing for Ipswich Town, an England player and looking one of our best strikers for years."

He claimed that prices asked by some League clubs were far



beyond Vale's resources and commented: "The biggest problem is that some non-League players are financially better off playing part-time and carrying on with ordinary jobs. That means you have to find the ones with ambition as well as talent."

Midfield man Terry Bailey, winger Ray Williams and striker Mick Cullerton all joined Vale from Stafford Rangers and Sproson raided the Northern Premier League again last season to sign centre-forward John Rogers from Wigan Athletic.

"VICTIMS" OF THE HUDDERSFIELD HOODOO



Trevor Cherry, now Leeds skipper and an England star.

IT'S strange how some players seem completely at home with some clubs, yet fail almost totally to reproduce the same form elsewhere.

Huddersfield Town are a club who can ruefully point to several players who arrived at Leeds Road with impressive reputations.

Yet, they never seemed the same in a blue-and-a-white shirt and went elsewhere to pick up the pieces of their careers, often rediscovering their touch almost immediately.

Last season perhaps the most striking example of all was provided by Colin Garwood.

This East Anglian by birth, soon found his feet in League football, and after 58 matches with Peterborough United and a convincing 31-goal haul he moved on to Oldham Athletic.

Colin's touch did not desert him at Boundary Park either. The goals flowed and in 83 appearances another 36 goals were chalked up.

So Huddersfield slapped themselves on the back when they persuaded this happy-go-lucky striker to join them in 1975.

But just as many before him had faltered so Garwood found that goals were becoming rare moments of luxury for him at Leeds Road.

He didn't know why — the pitch is tight — and has a disconcerting slope, the fans are like any others, they get restless when things aren't going well, but he was doing the same things. It was just that the goals had dried up.

Eventually Garwood moved on to Colchester United, as just another member of the club of players who find Huddersfield a graveyard for

goalscorers.

And the minute he got away — the goals came flooding back.

By the beginning of May Colin had scored 24 times, leading Colchester's push towards Third Division football — and he it was you may remember who scored that dramatic replay-earning goal in the last minute of their F.A. Cup Fourth Round against Derby.

Huddersfield aren't the only clubs who've had their problems with strikers, but when you look at this list you realise there must be some sort of hoodoo on the club:

Brian Clark scored 159 League goals with Bristol City and Cardiff City, yet sandwiched between was a spell at Huddersfield which can only be described as insignificant — it produced just 11 goals.

Little Joe Harper first tried his luck in English football with Huddersfield but was never popular, failed as a marksman and went home to Scotland a disappointed and disillusioned man.

Since then he's become almost a legend North of the border with Aberdeen and Hibernian.

Phil Summerill could do no wrong with Birmingham scoring 46



Colin Garwood a hit at Colchester after leaving Leeds Road.

goals in just over 100 appearances. His rate at Huddersfield slumped, and like Clark his total was only 11 — this in two seasons.

Two of the most famous of Huddersfield's former Sons are Trevor Cherry (Leeds) and Frank Worthington (Leicester), both of whom have won England caps with their clubs.

No wonder Town's fans are disgruntled with the way things have gone while Town have been slithering from the First to the Fourth Division in five years.

Most recent signings Terry Eccles and Jim McCaffrey (Mansfield Town), Kevin Johnson (Hartlepool) and goalkeeper Alan Starling (Northampton) must be hoping they can reverse the trend.

ONE of the few bright spots for Tottenham during their unsuccessful struggle against relegation during the past season, was the discovery of young midfield star Glenn Hoddle.

His vision, skill and technique excited fans and critics alike even after just a handful of first team matches.

But the secret of Glenn's rapid success goes beyond the ability which made Don Revie select him for the England Under-21 side.

For Hoddle, still only 19-years-old, believes he will never grow too old to

learn about the game.

Martin Chivers, Tottenham's former striking-hero has been watching Glenn's progress closely.

Said Martin: "Some players believe they have 'made it' after half-a-dozen first team appearances. They then sit back and stop listening.

"Glenn is different. He's prepared to look, listen, learn and take in as much as possible for more experienced players.

"He's really got something going for him and provided he doesn't stop listening, his potential is unlimited."

Chivers, who watched Spurs during his mid-winter break from his club Servette of Geneva, has special reason for following the fortunes of Glenn Hoddle. He was partly responsible for bringing him to White Hart Lane.

Glenn recalls the turning point in his young life when playing in a schools' Cup Final at Harlow in Essex.

"I had been training at Tottenham since the age of 11. I was then 13 but hadn't received the usual card to tell me to report for training again. I thought the club had lost interest in me.

The secret of Glenn Hoddle's rapid progress

"Then Martin Chivers came to our Cup Final to present the trophy and medals. He must have put in a good word about me when he returned to White Hart Lane because I was invited back to the club a few days later."

Martin Chivers recalls the Cup Final: "Glenn stood out, but someone with his ability couldn't help it. I merely mentioned his name and described his display when I got back to Tottenham."

Glenn's rise to fame has been so quick it's almost taken his breath away. But the limelight certainly hasn't affected him.

He says: "Everything's happened so fast that people at the club are keeping their eye on me to protect me from all the publicity and adulation.

"They're naturally concerned that it might ruin my game.

"I don't think it will. I haven't changed as a person since the day I signed on as an apprentice.

Credit

"Yet I can appreciate their fears, especially after winning that Under-21 cap."

Apart from Martin Chivers, Glenn is quick to give credit to other people who've helped to map out his career.

"For the first five years at Spurs Bill Nicholson and Pat Welton influenced me so much. I learnt a great deal from both of them.

"During the past year, manager Keith Burkinshaw has set me on the right road. He told me at the start of last season that I must work on my defensive game and combine it with my skills.

"He didn't beat about the bush. He told me straight, that if I didn't achieve that I wouldn't get into the side.

"That made me sit up and take notice and I haven't looked back since."

There is no need for Glenn Hoddle to look back. There is only one way for him to go now . . . forward as Tottenham beginning their fight to regain First Division status.



EUROPEAN critics were quick to slam FIFA's choice of Argentina for the 1978 venue, claiming that the country's political situation created grave security problems. Maybe the Europeans were hoping for a switch to a European venue which would favour their own teams...

In any case, FIFA President Joao Havelange stood by the decision, arguing firmly that, following FIFA's policy of alternating European and South American venues, Argentina was the correct choice.

There's no denying that the country has its share of violence and political unrest, but it's a sad fact that few countries in the world can claim to be exempt from the modern uncivilised wave of terrorism.

The Argentinians are paying a lot of attention to security, and it looks as though visiting teams and supporters will have no problems on that score.

Europe's long-distance critics also claimed that Argentina's chronic inflation problems would leave the country economically incapable of staging the World Cup.

Some household items have risen 800% in the last 18 months, but it seems unlikely to affect a world-wide event such as the World Cup, where all the figures are expressed in U.S. dollars.

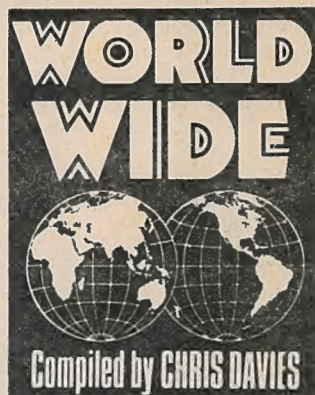
Argentina's expenses, in terms of new facilities needed for the World Cup and all the organisation, run well into nine figures, though they'll be able to recoup some of their outlay quite quickly. They make a lot of profit on sales of the World Cup emblem.

British firm West & Nally have guaranteed over £500,000 for the right to handle the publicity inside the stadiums. Gate receipts from the 38 matches are likely to total around £12 million, with ticket prices ranging from £1.75 (standing, preliminary games) to £26 (a good seat at the Final). And the fees paid by the world's TV services will help to swell the Argentinian coffers.

When Argentina was confirmed as the venue for 1978, it created a problem for the Argentinian authorities. Where would the games be played? Argentina's 2,795,850 sq. kms. (over a million square miles) make the country as big as — wait for it — Britain, Germany, Belgium, France, Spain, Holland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland and Sweden rolled into one — with as many variations of climate!

The massive capital city of Buenos Aires was the obvious choice for the main centre, and the authorities decided that sub-centres in Cordoba, Rosario, Mar del Plata and Mendoza would give most Argentinians the opportunity to see World Cup football. Let's have a quick look at the four sub-centres...

In Cordoba, 170 acres of land alongside the Rio Primero at Chateau Carrera have been converted into a brand-new sports complex. The stadium, which is ten miles from the city centre, will hold 51,878 spectators (28,178



TAKES A LOOK AT THIS TIME NEXT YEAR...



On June 1st, 1978, reigning Champions West Germany will be led on to the brand-new turf of River Plate's Monumental Stadium for the opening game of the World Cup Finals. Five hundred white doves will be released as a

symbol of peace and brotherhood. The loudspeakers will proclaim: "Bienvenidos a la Republica Argentina" — "Welcome to Argentina." Yet the background to the Finals has been anything but tranquil...

seated) and work is running ahead of schedule.

Cordoba itself is a pleasant city with some interesting architecture. It's popular with tourists because of its lake and mountain scenery and its mild climate.

The same can't be said about Mendoza, perched at 2,350 feet above sea-level in the foothills of the mighty Andes mountains.

Here, the players will find the daytime temperatures of around 60° pleasant enough, but the altitude and the abrupt drop to freezing temperatures at night may give them problems.



LEFT... Argentina's Heredia slide-tackles Lato of Poland during the 1974 World Cup Finals. Heredia is an "exile" in Spain with Atletico Madrid now.

ABOVE... The site of the stadium in Mendoza, near the Andes.

RIGHT... Argentina manager Cesar Luis Menotti (left) with goalkeeper Hugo Gatti.

The playing area is being raised by about two feet to improve spectators' vision, and a better drainage system is being installed to avoid flooding during the winter rains.

The stadium is being given an extra floor all round, and the capacity of the modernised ground will be 60,000. The city itself is Argentina's second-largest with a population of a million. Rosario is an industrial centre, and isn't particularly attractive in terms of tourism.

But Buenos Aires certainly is. And when it comes to the World Cup Final all roads will lead to the biggest city in South America. A third of Argentina's 27 million inhabitants live in the astonishing 1,344 square mile urban sprawl of Buenos Aires.

The football-mad city has ten top-class football stadiums, but the two chosen for the World Cup are River Plate's "Monumental" Stadium and Velez Sarsfield's

The city of Mendoza has a population of over half a million, and is famous for its wines and good food. The new stadium is practically completed and work is well advanced on the training pitch, car parks and approach roads.

Mendoza's "El Plumerillo" airport is also being modernised in time for the World Cup.

By contrast to Mendoza, Mar del Plata is exactly at sea level. The city is an immense coastal resort 250 miles south of Buenos Aires, famous for its beaches, its restaurants and its casino. Most

Argentinian teams go there for their summer (which is our winter) training programme.

Here, the southern-hemisphere winds keep the temperature down to about 52° during the day, and 39° at night. The new stadium will hold 45,240 spectators and, if work continues at its present pace, it'll be completed by the end of this year.

Inland at Rosario there's no new stadium, though Rosario Central fans may be hard pressed to recognise their ground after an extensive face-lift.

ground in the suburb of Liners.

Both are being given a complete face-lift at the moment — largely to modernise the Press, radio and TV facilities needed by the hordes of reporters who'll flock to Argentina for the Championship.

The Argentinians reckon there could be 10,000 foreign journalists, though the figure may not be an accurate estimate. One thing is certain — 4,000 seats have been reserved for the media at every game! An estimated 4,000,000,000 people will see the World Cup matches on television in just about every country in the world.

though — rather like winter in Spain.

The sudden shift from mid-summer to mid-winter could put the European teams at a slight disadvantage, and in these circumstances it'll be easy to pick up colds and flu.

The change of food and routine is something that all the Europeans squads will try to minimise, and a lot of teams are already making plans to ship in plane-loads of their national food, so that the players don't have any stomach problems.

In a way it's a pity, because Argentinian food is varied and good — especially the traditional "churrasco", a massive T-bone steak.

Although Spanish is Argentina's official language, the people are a USA-type mix of different nationalities, with particularly strong Italian and German communities. So England won't be popular if they qualify at Italy's expense!

Sir Alf Ramsey's "animals" remark of 1966 still hasn't been forgotten, and the England squad will have to spend some time on public relations if they're to have much support from the Argentinian crowds.

Undisciplined

The fans out there are generally likeable, colourful, rowdy, passionate and, we regret to say, undisciplined. They cover the pitch with litter. They don't respect seat numbers. And their favourite "sport" is getting in by slipping the gateman a "couple of bob".

That's why the government has mounted an intensive publicity campaign aimed at correcting these shortcomings before the World Cup kicks-off.

After 2½ years of preparation, the Argentinian team is beginning to take shape. Their 37-year-old manager Cesar Luis Menotti rose to fame as manager of a brilliant Huracan side that thrilled the crowds in the early Seventies before losing a lot of key players to European teams.

Menotti has been trying to add some European-style hard-running and incisiveness to the traditional Argentinian ball-control.

He insists that he won't be recalling any exiled players from Europe because he prefers to develop a strong team-spirit and complete understanding among his players. But Menotti's not in an enviable position. Everyone wants Argentina to win, and if they fail, Menotti can expect a real slating.

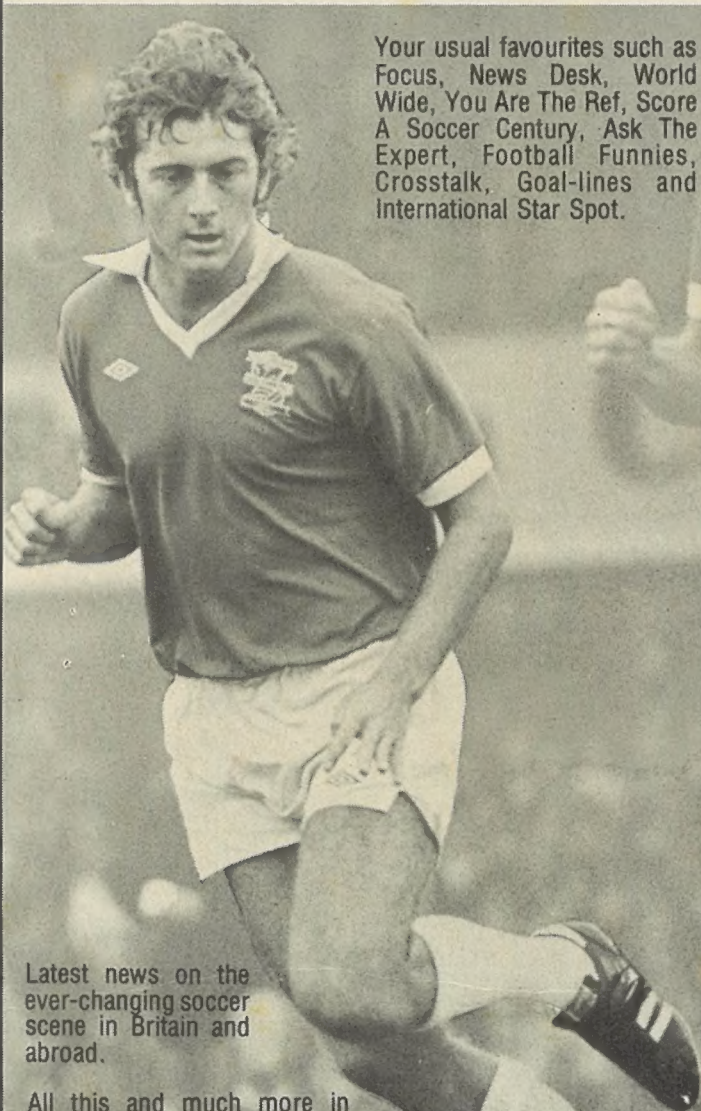
Staging the World Cup is a tremendous effort for Argentina. To make it worthwhile, they're determined to win...

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All matches involving European teams will kick off at 2.30 local time, so they can be screened at 6.30 in Britain.

To cope with these tremendous demands for TV facilities, radio transmission facilities, telex booths and so on, the Argentinians have had to spend £183 million on new communications equipment.

All Press and TV facilities will be master-minded from a massive Press Centre at the Centro Cultural San Martin in Buenos Aires, and strict tabs will be kept on all visiting media-men for security reasons, much the same as in West Germany 1974.

But one thing will be very different from the 1974 Finals. In Argentina, June is mid-winter, and the pitches could be wet. Temperatures should be comfortable,



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